

THE TIMES 1785-1985 Tomorrow

Nancy's star part
How the ex-Hollywood
actress became
the ideal wife
for a President
Choppy waters
Shake-up for the
ferry companies as
the Channel Tunnel
nears go-ahead
Get my meaning
It's a good thing
we don't speak
the way we write,
says Philip Howard
Horse sense
Ginger McCain, who
trained Red Rum
to win three Grand
Nationals, is back
in the running

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition prize of £2,000 was won yesterday by Mr A. Alvey, of London. Portfolio list, page 18; how to play, information service, back page.

Guidelines for nurses on Aids

Guidelines have been issued for health workers who come into contact with patients suffering from Aids.

Such patients should be nursed in isolation, and hospital staff should wear disposable protective clothing when taking samples. The health of such staff should be monitored.

Too few experts, page 5

Belgrano delay

The Prime Minister said that Lord Lewin, Chief of the Defence Staff, was not immediately told of the first sighting of the Argentine cruiser that was sunk during the Falklands conflict.

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Crisis flight

President Mitterrand announced on television last night that he would fly today to visit the troubled French territory of New Caledonia.



Top Sikh shot

The head priest of the Sikhs' highest religious order was shot and wounded by a group of youths in a village in Punjab.

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VE Day service

A service of commemoration in Westminster Abbey on May 8 is being considered as the centenary of Britain's VE Day celebrations.

Back page

Fight threat

Eddie Thomas, manager of Welsh challenger Colin Jones, threatened to pull out of Saturday's World Boxing Association welter-weight title bout against Don Curry because the weigh-in time has been brought forward.

Leader page, 13
Letters: On unemployment, from Mr Thomas Ellis; new rifle, from Mr R. Elliott, and Mr M. Spiro
Leading articles: Polish Trial; VE Day; Cyprus Talks
Features, pages 10, 12
The key to better housing: why the ad-men are searching for freedom of speech: the culprit in Bhopal. Spectrum: the Chancellor in crisis.
Books, page 11
David Cecil reviews the letters of Robert Bridges; Gay Firth on fiction: Gorton Goulden on Burkhardt; David Rees reviews George Kennan's book about the origins of the First World War
Obituary, page 14
Miss Katharine Pleydell-Bouverie, June

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Legal threat to unions as rail strike goes ahead

Train services in the Midlands and Yorkshire will be disrupted by a 24-hour strike today over alleged harassment of railway workers in the Midlands who refuse to move coal.

British Rail warned the unions that it may seek damages for losses caused by today's action.

The brunt of the action will be felt in the East Midlands and South Yorkshire, but some London commuter services could be affected with guards at Waterloo station pledged to take sympathetic unofficial action and threats of similar disruption at King's Cross.

British Rail's threat of legal action was described as "the height of folly" by Mr Jimmy Knapp, the general secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen. He said it would increase the possibility of other workers joining today's official action, which involves 5,000 rail workers at eleven depots in the Coalville and Worsop areas, Sheffield and Doncaster.

The unions were angered by the release of the British Rail statement containing the threat while the unions were still deciding whether to call off the strike. Mr John Palcette, the British Rail personnel director, said: "In fairness to our customers, we have to make it very clear to the unions that this present kind of situation will not be tolerated."

The statement said the strike was "totally unjustified". The board believed it had answered all the unions' allegations of harassment by police and local management. Employees who refused to move coal would be dealt with "firmly but fairly".

The High Court has confirmed Mr Henry Richardson's position as general secretary of the Nottinghamshire Miners' union, but has reduced his powers.

Pit deputies have severed links with the coal board and accused Mr Ian MacGregor of being "cold and callous" in not meeting the NUM (back page).

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

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The action of a small number of BR employees cannot be allowed to frustrate and risk the future of BR's freight business and the number of future jobs in BR.

The rising cost of the miners' strike, which has led to freight business losses of more than £200 million, has persuaded senior British Rail managers that it is to take a strong line with the unions. A meeting next week between the chairman, Mr Bob Reid, and the unions will emphasize the management's concern.

Soon after the unions' decision to go ahead with the strike became known, British Rail cancelled 47 trains mainly overnight services between London and Scotland.

If there is strong support for today's action, inter-city services between London and Scotland will be halted at Peterborough.

There will be no trains between Birmingham and York and services to Sheffield are likely to stop at either Leicester or Derby.

Mr Knapp accused the board of handling the issue in a ham-fisted way, saying the unions had been negotiating with the board since September to get the harassment problem settled.

"The blame for the serious and entirely unnecessary industrial action rests squarely on the shoulders of the British Rail board. Our members in the Midlands are simply carrying out the instructions of their elected executive committee. They must and will receive the protection of union membership," Mr Knapp said.

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Court ruling puts pits chief in 'exile'

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The High Court yesterday confirmed that Mr Henry Richardson is the general secretary of the Nottinghamshire Miners' union, but stripped him of many of his powers.

In a decision that left both sides baffled, Mr Justice Woolf ruled that the pro-strike coalfield leader suspended by his area executive five days ago, should be permitted to resume office.

But under the terms of the ruling, he will not be able to carry out the policies of the National Union of Mine-workers executive from his offices in Mansfield, and the moderates seeking to oust him regard the outcome as a victory.

Mr Richardson agreed last night that he is a "general secretary in exile".

The High Court decision effectively reverses a 24-hour holding injunction that was thought to have restored the Nottinghamshire secretary to his original, if increasingly untenable, position as the pro-strike leader of a coalfield where

more than 90 per cent of the men are working normally.

The ruling clears the way for Nottinghamshire miners to continue their defiance of the national strike call and dissociate themselves from the policies of the miners' union's national executive. A national union delegate conference is expected to expel the area on January 29.

Mr Richardson has been chosen as the man to organize a "loyalist" miners' union division in Nottinghamshire after that date, and he said yesterday that in the interim he will deal with correspondence from the union's national office at home and attend all meetings in his area in the usual way until the expected expulsion order takes effect.

The feelings aroused by the internal union clash were brought into relief yesterday, by Mr Paul Todd, solicitor for the working miners in Nottinghamshire, who argued that there was no animosity in the local

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Thames deal angers ITV network

'Dallas' poached from BBC

By David Hewson

Thames Television has poached *Dallas* from the BBC, making it Britain's most expensive American soap opera and almost certainly taking the unscrupulous antics of J R Ewing off most television screens in Britain.

The secret purchase by Thames for a record £55,000 an episode has delighted BBC executives who see it as proof of commercial television's big-spending ways. It has so incensed other independent companies that many are expected to refuse to transmit the programme when it becomes available next autumn.

Mr David Plevin, managing director of Granada, said: "It is a unilateral purchase by Thames. Speaking in my personal capacity, I think the timing of it is insensitive. I don't propose to play it and frankly I don't see much point at this particular time in our participating in a price war."

Mr Paul Fox, managing

director of Yorkshire Television, said: "We have no plans to show *Dallas*. *Emmerdale Farm* gets a better rating on the network than *Dallas* does and I am not particularly happy about the way this has been done."

Other companies, who heard about the news late yesterday afternoon, were undecided about whether to run *Dallas*. Details were revealed at a hastily-called BBC press conference. Although the corporation would have preferred to keep the programme, there was obvious delight at something of a propaganda coup for the BBC.

The commercial companies were angry for two reasons. They believe that Thames should not have gone behind their back to buy such a well-known programme, and that the deal could prove a propaganda coup for the BBC, which is attempting to accuse ITV of profligacy during the difficult negotiations over its licence fee.

Mr Bill Cotton, managing director of BBC Television, accused Thames of starting a price war for imported US material. The BBC had been prepared to raise the price for the series, currently £29,000 an episode, but the Los Angeles company Worldvision, which handles the series, insisted that the negotiations be concluded within four days because, the BBC claimed, Thames was negotiating.

Thames denied that last night. "Worldvision came to us with *Dallas* after negotiations with the BBC broke down and we bought it. This is an unusual way of buying programmes but it is not unknown. We hope it will be screened throughout the network." But ITV sources said that there was no precedent for a company attempting to buy a running series from the BBC secretly, and if one were to be attempted it would be made through the federal body, the Independent Television Companies' Association.



The Prince and Princess of Wales visiting Horton Hospital, Epsom, Surrey, yesterday. They drove through deep snow from Sandringham to fly to Heathrow. Photograph: Julian Herbert

Blizzards sweep on across Europe

By Richard Dowden

Blizzards are forecast for the south of England tonight by the Meteorological Office in London. "It will be the worst we have seen in this spell so far," a spokesman said.

Most of Europe is now caught in a layer of very cold air which swept down from northern Scandinavia unusually far south and west across the continent. Snow fell on the Costa del Sol yesterday.

In London the temperature fell to -4°C, the coldest since 1963, while Brighton recorded a temperature of -10°C.

Despite the severe cold, conditions on many roads improved slightly yesterday and police forces reported fewer roads blocked and all main roads passable.

Trains have been fitted with snow ploughs in some parts of the country and in Sussex and Kent, which experienced the worst of the weather, most train services were delayed.

Hundreds of schools remained closed, either cut off by drifting snow or suffering from frozen water pipes and central heating breakdowns.

Many vegetables have doubled in price because of the cold weather, according to the Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Information Centre, and supplies could run out altogether if the bad weather continues.

The ground is so hard in some parts that it is impossible to lift crops and fruit is being damaged. Sprouts, leeks and greens are particularly vulnerable.

In Europe more than 300 people have been killed directly or indirectly by the cold and many parts are completely cut off. In northern Italy a state of emergency has been declared and troops have been brought in to clear roads.

Majorities in the Costa Brava and the Costa del Sol all had snow yesterday and traffic was brought to a standstill by a rare fall in Madrid.

In the Camargue, in southern France, 700 wild pink flamingos have died despite attempts by wildlife officials to save them. Fish, the birds' normal diet, have become frozen in the salt lakes. In Britain the Department of the Environment has imposed a

Continued on back page, col 3

Pound down too far, says Thatcher

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Prime Minister said yesterday that the pound had slipped too far, she did not like it remaining at its present low level, and that she was somewhat baffled by the slide.

She said in an interview on BBC radio Woman's Hour: "In my view, it's down too far and I do not like it sliding any further. I do not like it being down at this rate." And at the end of a lengthy defence of the country's economic standing, she said: "It's something of a mystery as to why sterling was falling."

Mrs Thatcher said: "I think you will find that there is something very strange in that the dollar is at a uniquely high position against all of the western currencies, and even currencies that you and I think of as tremendously strong - the Swiss franc, the Deutschmark - have been at record lows."

"It is a kind of new phenomenon we have not encountered before, but we will have to learn how to deal with it."

But she then said: "One day it will break. You cannot go on with the dollar going up and up against other currencies, and I think most of us would feel that whatever happens it will happen smoothly, because uncertainty and suddenness are always very difficult for anyone in business."

Mrs Thatcher said that no Prime Minister liked to see the currency falling against the dollar. "The Government had acted decisively, and the action had been effective."

Ronald Butt, page 12

Reagan aide gloomy on space weapons accord

President Reagan conferred with his chief arms negotiators yesterday on prospects for the forthcoming superpower arms control talks. (Christopher Thomas writes).

There is clearly a feeling in the upper reaches of the Administration that there is only the remotest chance of an early accord.

It was Mr Reagan's first meeting with the team that negotiated agreement in Geneva last week to resume arms negotiations, probably in March. Mr Richard Perle, assistant Secretary of Defence and a hardliner, said later that the Administration would propose "massive reductions" in nuclear arms.

It believed in far more chance of accord on intermediate-range weapons and strategic arms than on the "much newer and more difficult, complex area of space," he said.

While promising that the allies would be consulted before the United States deployed any weapons in space, he insisted that "in the final analysis, there are no international obligations that would prevent the US from proceeding with deployment" if it had once withdrawn from the 1972 anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty with the Soviet Union.

The Dorchester

Sultan of Brunei pays £43m for London hotel

By Judith Huntley

The Dorchester Hotel in Park Lane, London, has been sold to the Sultan of Brunei for more than £43 million in the biggest single hotel deal in Britain. The Sultan intends lavishing another £20 million on refurbishing the building which has changed hands four times since the McAlpine family sold it in 1976 for £9 million.

The Sultan has bought the hotel from Regent International, the Hong Kong-based company whose American chairman and president is Mr Robert Burns. Regent, however, will continue to operate the Dorchester. Mr Burns and the Sultan were rival bidders for the Dorchester in July last year but Mr Burns emerged victorious.

The hotel charges up to £500 a night for suites with single rooms costing from £85 a night.

Israel washes hands of Lebanon

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Mr Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's Defence Minister, claimed yesterday that if massacres took place on Lebanese territory evacuated by Israeli troops next month, it would be the direct responsibility of the Lebanese Government and the indirect responsibility of the United Nations.

Addressing an audience of Jewish fund-raisers at an Israeli air base, Mr Rabin said that Israel would be leaving the largest south Lebanese city of Sidon in four weeks. He emphasized that if anything happened to the 40,000 Palestinians housed in the city's Ein Hilwe refugee camp, it would not be Israel's responsibility.

There is growing concern here about the possibility of serious blood-letting in the 500 square kilometres of territory Israel is to evacuate in the first phase of its three-stage withdrawal to the international border. Between 600,000 and 900,000 Lebanese civilians live in the area.

In an apparent reference to the massacre of Palestinian refugees by Lebanese Phalangists in West Beirut in September, 1982, Mr Rabin said: "We want one thing. To hand over this piece of territory with its hundreds of thousands of people in a way that there would be no repetition of massacres or anything of this kind."

Israel Radio reported last night that negotiations between Israel and Lebanon designed to determine security arrangements in the wake of Israel's withdrawal, are due to resume on Monday under UN auspices in the south Lebanese village of Naqurah. It said that today's scheduled session had been cancelled by the Lebanese for "technical reasons".

Bitter recriminations are continuing inside Israel's right wing Likud block one of the two main factions in the National Unity Government - about the split between its ministers over Monday's crucial vote sanction the withdrawal.

Mr David Levy, deputy Prime Minister who supported the pull-back vigorously defended his stand. He said he had not violated party policy since the Likud had not clearly defined its stand on the question.

● GENEVA: When the Israeli army begins its withdrawal "every Lebanese whose life is in danger because he cooperated with us - they are numerous - and wants even to come to Israel can do so," Mr Avid Kimche, director-general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, said here yesterday (Alan McGregor writes).

Others might prefer to remain in the region. "Perhaps we will have to do something to protect them," he added, "but that's a difficult question."

Sharon wins first round

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

Mr Ariel Sharon won the first round of his historic \$59 million (£52 million) libel action against *Time* magazine here yesterday. He needs two more favourable decisions to win the case.

Two months after he left Israel to do battle over the magazine's reporting of his role in the 1982 Lebanon war and the massacre of Palestinians in refugee camps, the jury emerged. Mr Sharon had been defeated in one paragraph of *Time*'s cover story entitled "The Verdict is Guilty", published in February 1983.

Israel's former Defence Minister, now Minister of Industry and Commerce, said the words meant he had encouraged Christian Phalangists in the slaughter of more than 700 Palestinians in the Sabra and Chatila camps, near Beirut.

The partial decision by the four women and two men of the jury was the first of three needed to make a complete verdict.

The jury also has to say whether the disputed paragraph was false and whether *Time* knowingly published in a spirit of malice, with reckless disregard for the truth. If Mr Sharon wins, there would be a separate hearing to determine damages.

He was the planner and driving force behind Israel's Lebanon war, but the mass-



Mr Sharon arriving at the court yesterday.

acres in the refugee camps badly damaged his reputation and he lost his job as Defence Minister. The official commission which investigated the massacre said he bore indirect responsibility.

In the disputed passage in its report on the inquiry, *Time* said that "Sharon reportedly discussed with the Germans the need for the Phalangists to take revenge for the assassination of Bashir (Gennayev)". *Time* claimed this did not mean Mr Sharon had encouraged the massacre.

After the jury's first decision, Mr Milton Gould, Mr Sharon's lawyer, said that "six ordinary Americans, reading English the way English is meant to be read, understand that the article was defamatory".

Harrods Sale

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TUC moves to expel two unions who took ballot aid

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

TUC leaders set in motion disciplinary procedures yesterday which could lead to the expulsion of two large unions, the electricians and engineers, for accepting state finance for secret ballots.

But the punishment may never be carried out because the unions agreed to delay for at least two months a final decision and moves are afoot to change the policy.

The TUC's employment policy and organization committee voted 12 to 7 to invoke disciplinary rule 13, which permits suspension and expulsion, to make the engineers and electricians conform to the policy of non-co-operation with certain labour laws.

But the union have adopted a softer approach than yesterday's decision might suggest. The general council will be recommended to return the issue to the finance and general purposes committee for an inquiry which will take several months.

A proposal from Mr David Bassett, leader of the General Municipal and Boilermakers Union and a key figure in the centre-right coalition which holds power on the general council, for a special conference to ensure that TUC policy has the full support of its affiliates was thrown out unceremoniously.

Another suggestion, that the TUC general secretary, Mr Norman Willis, should report to the general council was also rejected, by 13 votes to six.

Union leaders were left with the delaying tactic proposed in a Congress House policy paper. That was approved.

If the general council agrees next week to proceed under rule

13 against the electricians and engineers, the two unions will be called in to explain their defiance of the 1982 Wembley conference decision. If they persist they will be summoned for a second time.

But proposals for changes in the TUC's attitude towards the Employment Acts of 1980 and 1982 and the 1984 Trade Union Act are expected to emerge during the union conference season. TUC moderates are putting their money on a shift in policy, to allow unions to operate the laws.

Mr Gerry Russell, of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers, said yesterday that it was questionable whether the employment committee could do anything under rule 13. The engineers have had a secret ballot on whether to accept state cash. The result, widely expected to be overwhelmingly in favour, will be announced in two weeks.

The engineers will implement the decision of their members. We have been severely criticized by one or two people on the committee for being like to know any union in Britain that would ignore a secret ballot of its members," Mr Russell said.

The electricians union has indicated that it will claim back from the Government several hundred thousand pounds for ballots it has held during the past five years, but might freeze the money pending any change in its attitude towards the law. That pledge is on the table, but was not regarded as sufficient to forestall formal invocation of the disciplinary procedure.

Forty peers line up for live TV debate

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Members of the House of Lords are competing vigorously to appear next week in the first live television showing of a British parliamentary debate.

With a week still to lapse before Wednesday's debate on the economy, the exceptional number of more than 40 peers had signified by last night their intention to speak.

Some are likely to drop out, but several others are expected to come forward. If the numbers do not shrink the debate is likely to last until well past midnight, although the BBC's main transmission will stop shortly after 7pm.

The debate on the motion of a Labour peer, Lord Beswick, is on the need for the Government "to develop economic and social policies which unite the nation."

The show is likely to be stolen by Lord Stockton of Ovensden formerly Mr Harold Macmillan, who will be 91 next month and whose maiden speech in the Upper House last November was universally acclaimed.

Although Lord Stockton was the thirtyfifth peer to put his name down, he is likely to be heard fifth, by virtue both of respect for age and of public demand.

The Bishop of Birmingham, the Right Rev Hugh Montefiore, is to make his maiden speech which has been awaited with some interest since his criticism of the Government last October for persisting in the "politics of confrontation".

Another maiden speech is due from Lord Monckswell, who is due to take his seat for the first time that day. Formerly Mr Gerard Collier, Lord Monckswell will be only the seventeenth hereditary peer on the Labour side.

He is also notable, since he is the first son of a peer who has disclaimed a peerage to have established his right to succeed to the title.

Whales beached

Villagers, fishermen and RSPCA officials tried in vain to save 34 stranded pilot whales yesterday on the coast near Spurn Head in Humberside.

Toy soldiers gallop to dollar's tune

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Toy soldiers showed at Phillips' Toy Auction yesterday that they are still a dollar's worth (rather than sterling) commodities when a new auction record for a set of lead soldiers was made at £7,920. It was a Royal Horse Artillery six-horsegun team at the gallop with a limber, a gun, four mounted gunners and a mounted officer.

The set was made briefly in 1940 and 1941. Its extreme rarity involves the soldiers wearing steel helmets: in a much more common set they

wear peaked caps. An identical set of steel-helmeted gunners was sold two months ago, for £6,820, then the top auction price and predating the slide in the pound.

In New York on Tuesday, Christie's started the new year with an important sale of Old Master paintings totalling £3.3 million.

The star turn was a 1645 river landscape by Salomon van Ruysdael which sold for \$418,000 (estimate \$150,000 to \$250,000) or £366,666.

RUC man told to lie over killing

Senior Royal Ulster Constabulary officers invented an account of a killing in Northern Ireland so that an officer would not have to reveal he was working on Special Branch information.

The sergeant was ordered to change his account of the shooting near Lurgan, co Armagh, in which a teenage died and another was seriously wounded, Belfast Crown court was told yesterday.

Sergeant "X" said that after the hayshed shooting he told senior officers what occurred when Michael Tighe, aged 17, was shot dead by an RUC anti-terrorist unit.

The officer told the trial of Martin McCauley, seriously injured in the incident who is charged with possessing three rifles, that he was given an invented account and told that under no circumstances was he to disclose that he was working on Special Branch information.

The officer said his fictitious account alleged he had seen a gunman running from a cottage to the shed but the true account was that a man was standing inside with a rifle.

One policeman had shouted a warning and then he and a colleague fired two bursts. Mr McCauley denies possessing three rifles, only one of which had a bolt.

The hearing continues today.

Falklands get pledge on self-rule

By Rodney Cowton

The right of self-determination for Falkland Islanders is to be enshrined in a proposed new constitution for the islands.

A revised constitution has been under consideration for two years. It is seen primarily as a tidying-up operation, pulling together elements of the present constitution which are contained in a large number of documents.

A draft of the new constitution is being considered by the legislative council of the Falkland Islands, and the fact that Mr Thatcher had agreed to the right of self-determination being enshrined in the constitution is said to have been greeted with great enthusiasm in the islands.

There has been concern among the islanders that Britain's other dependencies in the South Atlantic - South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands - are to be given a constitution separate from that of the Falkland Islands.

The Government appears to have made a concession to the islanders' feelings by proposing that an administrative convenience should continue to be administered by the Civil Commissioner of the Falkland Islands, at present Sir Rev Hunt.

Cold causes cancellation of hospital admissions

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The weather has led to the cancellation of scores of hospital admissions and operations in and around London.

The emergency bed service, which helps family doctors find beds, has declared a "yellow alert", asking hospitals to cut back non-urgent admissions. Some hospitals have gone on "red alert", cancelling all routine cases on some days.

Miss Monica Craig, administrator of the service, whose future has been under threat as the four Thames regions question its £400,000 annual budget, said fractures and falls combined with the seasonal rise in chest complaints of bronchitis, congestive heart failure and hypothermia in the elderly was

putting extreme pressure on hospitals.

"They are having quite a few problems in admitting emergency patients. Most orthopaedic wards are overflowing, putting pressure on other beds."

A further deterioration in the weather could lead to the first "red alert", asking hospitals to cancel all non-urgent admissions, since the 1970s, she said.

Hospitals facing particular difficulties include those in Hillingdon, Brentford and Newham. The Mayday hospital in Croydon said it had had to go on "red alert", cancelling waiting list cases for the day on four times in the past 10 days, including yesterday.

Radar to aid weathermen

More accurate early warning of heavy snow and rain should come with the help of a new weather radar system (our Science Editor writes). Equipment which can detect the intensity of snow, hail or rain up to 130 miles away was brought into operation yesterday.

The £800,000 London (Chenies) weather radar system is now monitoring continuously the Greater London area and the south-east from a hill-top in the Chilterns.

By relaying detailed information about rainfall approaching the area, warning of expected high river levels will be passed to local authorities more quickly.

Anger over inquiry into police and pits strike

Mr Enoch Powell, Official Unionist Party MP for Down, South yesterday led an outcry over the European Parliament's decision to set up a special inquiry committee into police action in the miners' strike.

Now pressure is mounting on the Prime Minister and Mr Leon Brittan the Home Secretary, to order police forces throughout the country and other interested parties to refuse to co-operate in the inquiry.

Mrs Thatcher will face a barrage of questions in the Commons today from angry Tory MPs.

Mr Powell said yesterday that the decision to hold an inquiry would "teach people some of the consequences of creating a directly elected European assembly."

Mr Nicholas Winterton, Conservative MP for Macclesfield, said: "This is an unacceptable and gross interference into the affairs of an member state. I hope the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary will make a statement indicating that we will ignore any of its findings and will play no part in the inquiry."

"This is an indication of the gradual erosion of national sovereignty of individual EEC countries. The Common market is no longer an economic unit but a day by day becomes much more a political community."

Mr Henry Greenwood, Conservative MP for Ealing North, said: "I hope police forces will not co-operate. I shall be raising this issue in Parliament with the Prime Minister urging her to disown this scandalous and deliberate attempt to undermine Britain's internal affairs by meddling Labour MEPs."

The number of miners abandoning the 10-month-old pit strike is increasing, and the National Coal Board expects this week's returns to be the highest so far this year.

The coal board said that 340 "new faces" reported for work yesterday, bringing the total for the week so far to 2,283.

Mining equipment worth £500,000 written off because management staff involved in salvaging it from a coalface are needed on production work, the coal board said yesterday.

The Lion 299 face at Bates colliery, Blyth, Northumberland, had stopped producing coal before the pit strike began last March, but miners had been salvaging machinery and equipment for use elsewhere.

The High Court case in which Mr Arthur Scargill and other National Union of Mineworkers leaders are accused of conspiring to assault working miners will begin today when 19 working miners will seek temporary injunctions banning mass pickets and banning the spending of cash by the union on picketing which is not peaceful and therefore, it is claimed, not lawful.

'Get tough on homes for elderly'

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Local authorities would have to take a tough line with private homes for the elderly and disabled under new legislation that came into effect on January 1, if Britain was to see the "worst excesses of commercially-based care" which had occurred in the United States and Australia, a conference was told yesterday.

Prof Malcolm Johnson, Professor of Health and Social Welfare at the Open University said that the evidence from America and Australia was that 19 standards from the start led to malpractice, "astronomical" costs, and "shameful examples of public failure causing private misery."

He told a conference in London, organized by Age Concern and the local authorities association that with the Department of Health and Social Security financing increasing numbers of the elderly in private homes, public as well as private money was involved.

Local authorities would be challenged by home owners angry at the costs of better care.

Growth in numbers aged 65+ in residential homes in England

Local Authorities 95,000 104,000 108,000
Voluntary 22,500 28,000 30,000
Private 18,000 20,000 20,000
Estimated; all numbers approximate.

Airlines cut fares to Spanish cities

Cuts of up to 45 per cent on scheduled flights to Spain from London were announced by British Airways and Iberia yesterday. They will be available on off-peak flights from Heathrow, Gatwick and Manchester to Madrid, Malaga and other Spanish cities with the biggest cuts available in July and September.

Reductions include: Madrid midweek return £131 (at present £130); Bilbao £133 (at present £130); Barcelona £133 (at present £130).

Sinn Fein wins video reward for electricity bill

Sinn Fein, political arm of the IRA, has been given a video recorder by the Irish Republic's electricity board in a scheme to encourage customers to pay promptly.

Sinn Fein's paid-up account in central Dublin was chosen by computer from 1,200,000 qualifying consumers in a monthly draw.

An electricity board spokesman said yesterday: "The number was checked to see if the account was paid within 14 days."

SAS man shot dead on firing range

A joint Army and police investigation is to be mounted into the death of Sergeant Raymond Abbott, aged 31, of the Special Air Service Regiment (SAS), who died of gunshot wounds during training at the regiment's headquarters in Hereford yesterday.

The Ministry of Defence said that the incident happened on an army range at Hereford but would not say whether the training was target practice or a more elaborate exercise.

A spokesman said that live ammunition was regularly used in training areas with ranges and by all regiments. "You cannot expect to train a man in accurate marksmanship without using live ammunition."

The SAS has a 750-acre training area next to the village of Abbey Dorset. Villagers have frequently complained of full-scale mock battles, often held at night, involving explosions, helicopters, powered hang gliders and parachute drops.

Sergeant Abbott was single. The MoD could not say when an inquest would be held. West Mercia police referred inquiries to the ministry.

Five years for meter fraud

John Baird, aged 55, a former meter collector of Mordeunvale, Edinburgh, who defrauded the South of Scotland Electricity Board of £173,538 by turning back meters in more than 80 establishments was yesterday jailed for five years.

Baird had lodged a special defence at the High Court sitting in Dundee inculpating his son-in-law Graham Jansch, but after Mr Jansch flew from South Africa to clear his name, Baird was cleared.

That attack made on Jansch in the High Court was totally untrue and Baird now pleaded guilty to the fraud.

Detained Briton visited by wife

Mrs Pat Plummer was briefly reunited yesterday with her husband, Robin, one of the four Britons detained in Libya, in the detainees' new quarters outside Tripoli. She said that her husband was well and that all four were more relaxed since they had been moved.

Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy, who also visited the four yesterday has still not been given a date by the Libyan authorities when a decision on the Britons' fate will be made.

BBC transmitter plan ruled out

An application from the BBC for new radio transmitters for its World Service to be erected at Bearley, near the Royal Shakespeare Company's theatre at Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire, was rejected yesterday by Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment.

The RSC feared that the six transmitters, with 300 foot towers, would affect the workings of delicate electrical stage equipment at the theatre.

Record advert

The longest television advertisement ever broadcast in Britain was a seven-minute 10 seconds long, is to be transmitted on TV-am on Sunday morning. The advertisement, for a Manchester mail order company, was approved yesterday by the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

Nalogo vote

Thousands of electricity workers have voted for industrial action in support of a 35-hour week, the National and Local Government Officers' Association said yesterday. But little effect on power supplies is expected.

Cruise protest

A cruise missile left Greenham Common in Berkshire early yesterday, amid protests from peace campaigners, which known to have poor road handling should be allowed out in icy conditions.

The Times overseas selling prices

Australia \$1.20, Belgium £1.20, Canada \$2.75, Denmark 175, France 175, Germany 175, Greece 175, Hong Kong 175, India 175, Italy 175, Japan 175, Korea 175, Luxembourg 175, Malaysia 175, Mexico 175, Netherlands 175, New Zealand 175, Norway 175, Pakistan 175, Portugal 175, Singapore 175, South Africa 175, Sweden 175, Switzerland 175, Taiwan 175, Thailand 175, Turkey 175, USA 175, West Germany 175, Yugoslavia 175.

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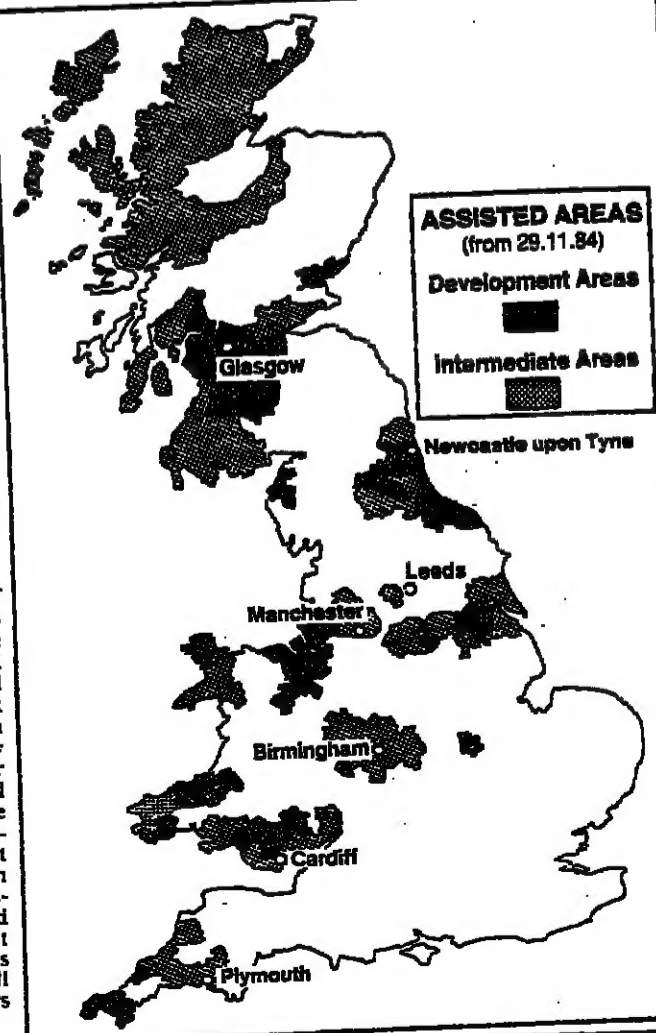
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Jenkin to meet Labour group fighting rate-capping

The Government is to concede de facto recognition to a coalition of hard-line Labour council leaders, including Mr Derek Hutton, the Liverpool councillor, who yesterday said that the group's intention was to "give Mrs Thatcher a bloody nose".

Previously, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, insisted that leaders of rate-capped councils pleased with him individually.



Jenkin to meet Labour group fighting rate-capping

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

The Government is to concede de facto recognition to a coalition of hard-line Labour council leaders, including Mr Derek Hutton, the Liverpool councillor, who yesterday said that the group's intention was to "give Mrs Thatcher a bloody nose".

Previously, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, insisted that leaders of rate-capped councils pleased with him individually.

But a departmental spokesman said yesterday that he would meet councillors collectively, including Mr Hutton, which is not being rate-capped in 1985-86.

Mr Jenkin also seems to have abandoned the date announced as final deadline for appeals against rate-capping figures - Tuesday of this week. The "final" deadline was yesterday declared to be January 24, when the Govern-

ment plans to lay parliamentary orders fixing limits for the 18 councils (16 of them Labour) facing a cap on their rates.

Determination not to be picked off by Mr Jenkin in separate deals was the keynote of yesterday's meeting of the Local Government Campaign Unit, which, although it nominally represents some 45 councils, is the vehicle of Labour councils facing rate-capping.

The Labour leaders said that their ambition was to force the Government to repeal the Rates Act, 1984, and to emasculate the 1980 and 1982 Acts, which set the present system of penalties and targets. In addition, they wanted extra rate support grant of £4 billion to

The group is to write to Mr Jenkin indicating an intention to meet him.

Parliament, page 4

MPs call for 80mph limit and tougher driving test to improve road safety

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

An all-party group of MPs called yesterday for a trial 80 mph speed limit on motorways in spite of its rejection by transport ministers last month. The proposal was promptly condemned by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, whose director of road safety, Mr Michael Read, described it as "misguided". Higher speeds would lead to more death and injury RSPA said. The organisation is to press ministers to resist the MPs proposal.

Mr Harry Cowans, chairman of the committee, said however

that the proposal had been very carefully considered. The committee members felt that it would improve safety by getting rid of the "convoy situation" which had developed since coach and lorry speeds were increased last year.

The MPs' proposal was supported by the Association of Chief Police Officers, and was also welcomed yesterday by the Automobile Association. The 80 mph limit would apply only to cars and would have to be rigidly enforced, Mr Cowans said.

The committee's report,

which was compiled after a two-year study, says that although deaths and injuries have declined during the past decade while road traffic in Britain has grown, accidents still cost £2.4 billion a year and are "far too high".

The committee recommends that a longer driving test should be considered.

The MPs also say the recommended level for drink-drive offences should be reconsidered.

The Department of Transport said last night it would be having a "long hard look" at the report and hoped to improve road safety with the committee's help. Road Safety, House of Commons 103-1, Stationery Office, £5.55

'Double company-car tax'

The licence fee should be doubled for company cars, and tax allowances scrapped, according to the environment group, London Amenity and Transport.

Company cars account for half of new car registrations and cost £1,500 million a year in tax evasion, equivalent to a £75 subsidy from every household.

Tax evasion includes claims for commuting mileage, and

fuel for leisure journeys or siphoned off from the company car in a two-car household. Other illegals include turning the clock back the mileometer after two years' intensive use: a practice which adds £1,000 to the price of a car.

Company cars should be phased out over a period, with doubling of tax as a first step. The Company Car Factor (London Amenity and Transport, 3 Stamford Street, London SE1 1JZ).

Road Accidents in Britain 1972-82

	1972	1982	% change
Killed	7,763	5,934	-23
Serious injury	91,338	79,789	-12
Slightly injured	290,929	248,023	-15
Total casualties	359,727	334,296	-7
Index of motor vehicle mileage (1949 = 100)	505	630	+26

High failure rate in bus tests

By Michael Horsnell

Concern about the safety of Britain's 65,000 buses mounted yesterday after the Department of Transport disclosed that nearly half of them failed their annual Public Service Vehicle test last year.

But the figures were criticized as misleading by the larger operators, who privately allege that they have been published to support the Government's bus privatization plans.

According to the Department of Transport, only 60 per cent of the 14,000 buses run by the state-owned National Bus Company, the largest operator

in the country, which is now at the centre of privatization proposals, passed the test first time.

An alarming 53 per cent of London Transport's 5,000 buses failed; and only 49 per cent of Passenger Transport Executive buses in the Metropolitan areas, and 67 per cent of local authority buses, passed. About 36 per cent of the 28,000 private buses passed the annual test.

The figures were hotly disputed by London Transport, which said 65 per cent of its buses passed first time, and a further 29 per cent after the

most minor adjustments, while still in the test centre.

A spokesman said: "These are terribly misleading figures put out by the Department. A bus can fail because a piece of chewing gum is found on the bottom of a seat, because an internal light bulb needs replacing or because of a scratch in the paintwork."

A spokesman for the National Bus Company said only 12 per cent of buses failed after minor rectification, and that no more than 6 per cent of failures are caused by mechanical defects.



Dummy run: Nicholas Treadwell, the gallery owner (left), discussing Graham Ibbeson's "Doppelgänger", with the sculptor Gordon Gouler before the opening today of the second International Contemporary Art Fair at Olympia, London. (Photograph: Jonathan Player)

Dog 'theft' was April Fool joke

A woman accused of stealing and holding a Yorkshire terrier to ransom told the police it had been an April Fool joke, a jury was told yesterday.

Mrs Marion West, aged 38, said she was being paid expenses for helping David Pearce take Barney and black-mail his owner, Mrs Jean Clayden, Chelmsford Crown Court was told.

Mrs Clayden, aged 42, described as a friend of the Duke of Edinburgh, said that the dog was stolen after she ended a sexual relationship with Pearce, a lodger, groom and handyman at her stud farm at the Vinery, Kelvedon, Essex.

Pearce, aged 35, and West, both from Stevenage, Hertfordshire, denied stealing the dog and demanding £2,000 with menaces for its safe return.

Trident man 'bought' by paper, jury told

From Tim Jones, Bristol

Raymond John Williams, a weapon expert who briefed senior officials on the Trident missile programme, had financial difficulties and betrayed the confidence of the Ministry of Defence by passing confidential documents and information to *The Observer*, Bristol Crown Court was told yesterday.

Mr Michael Broderick, for the prosecution, told the jury: "Putting it crudely, bluntly and to some extent colloquially, I can sum up the Crown case by saying the defendant was bought and as a result, he betrayed his employers' confidence in return for money."

Mr Williams, aged 38, of Charcombe Lane, Bath, pleaded not guilty to two charges of corruption. It was alleged he had received payments from the Sunday news-

paper totalling £1,500 for supplying documents and information to the paper and one of its journalists, Mr Patrick Bishop.

Mr Broderick said that in October 1983 Mr Williams' diary had indicated he needed £2,000 quickly or his home and car would be at risk. It also showed that after sending a letter to the paper he had meetings in Bath and London with Mr Bishop and other representatives of the newspaper.

On one occasion after £1,000 had been paid by the paper into his account, he was seen by a clerk from his bank sitting on a bench in Bath passing papers to Mr Bishop and another reporter.

The hearing continues today.

Cable TV may keep to business

By Bill Johnstone Technology Correspondent

New cable television networks may contain few if any entertainment channels and may be used only for carrying business data or non-entertainment services such as armchair shopping or banking.

The policy was outlined by Mr Jon Davey yesterday at the announcement of his appointment as director general of the Cable Authority, the watchdog of cable television.

Such a policy is a significant departure from the government's plans of three years ago. The Information Technology Advisory Panel, envisaged a typical model network to consist of 30 channels, of which 20 were entertainment.

Code for keeping animals in school

By Lucy Hodges Education Correspondent

Schools in England and Wales are crawling with animals large and small, from goats, gerbils, chickens and cockroaches to poultry, pigs, and sometimes cattle, according to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Such is the volume of queries from schools about how to look after the creatures that the society has produced guidelines telling them which animals they should keep and how they should look after them.

Small mammals, such as gerbils, mice, rats, guinea pigs and rabbits are suitable, it says, although hamsters may not be because they like to sleep during the day and become aggressive when tickled by inquisitive children. Birds, fish and certain amphibians are also considered suitable by the society.

However invertebrates, such as stick insects, locusts and American cockroaches, should be kept only for up to half a term, the society advises. "Invertebrates should not be exposed to any stress and should be seen to be treated with as much respect as vertebrates."

Animals on the unsuitable list are wild mammals and wild birds (because they can transmit disease); carnivores (because they may like to eat chickens); primates (because it is against the law) and amphibians.

If there is a good educational reason for keeping an amphibian, schools may do so, but they should return them to their natural habitat as soon as possible, the guidelines say.

They add that some native species, for example the natterjack toad and great crested (warty) newt, are protected by law.

The guidelines remind schools that animals should be attended to every day.

Comedian is cleared of car charge

Billy Connolly, the comedian, was cleared yesterday of careless driving. Magistrates at Weston-super-Mare, Avon, took less than a minute to find Mr Connolly, aged 42, from Fulham, west London, not guilty of driving on the M5 at Kingston Seymour without due care and attention.

His Volkswagen Beetle convertible overturned on to a grass verge last June. Mr Connolly, a member of the Institute of Advanced Motorists, was alone and no other vehicle was involved. He spent a day in hospital recovering from a head injury and bruising.

Magistrates were told that a cast iron brake drum from the nearby wheel fell in two parts when examined. Mr Walter Robinson, a member of the Institute of Diagnostic Engineers, said the split brake drum caused the wheel to lock momentarily, forcing the car to skid.

Explicit Lennon prints on show

Eight sexually explicit lithographs by John Lennon which were seized by the police from the London Arts Gallery went on display at Beattie City Museum, Liverpool, yesterday, the fifteenth anniversary of the raid.

The drawings, part of a collection of 14 called "Bag One" drawn on his honeymoon with Yoko Ono in 1969, show the couple engaged in various acts of love.



Airport boy goes home

Miloudi al-Majdouli, aged 13 (near), who was found wandering alone at Heathrow airport last week reunited yesterday with his mother, Mrs Elkarira al-Majdouli and his younger brother Samir at the Moroccan embassy in London, before leaving for home in Paris.

The boy explained that he had travelled in the lavatory of a train from Paris to Geneva, where he boarded a flight

GP drug budgets as spending control

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

Health ministers are considering giving family doctors individual "drug budgets" to help to control spending on general practitioner services.

The vote would follow the introduction of the Government's proposed "black-list" of drugs for which the National Health Service would no longer pay from April 1, as another step to controlling spending on drugs.

The budget idea is one of a number of options being considered for inclusion in the Government's Green Paper on family doctor services, planned for the spring.

Individual doctors or group practices would be given a budget for drugs, which they would not be allowed to exceed. As an incentive to prescribe economically they might be allowed to keep any savings, or more likely, would be allowed to spend any savings on improvement to their practice.

The move arises in the main from Treasury pressure to improve the forecasting of

spending on family doctor services, which, unlike the hospital service, are not cash-limited. Because they are demanded by the number of patients who turn up for consultations, spending has tended to exceed forecasts.

Family doctors would almost certainly oppose the move. The GP drugs bill has risen in part because to save money some hospitals have been discharging patients with only a few days' supply of drugs, telling them to go to their doctor for further supplies. Earlier discharge of patients from hospitals has also pushed drug spending from the hospital to the family doctor side.

Limiting GPs' spending would cap the one side of the health service free to respond to patient demand, and doctors would be likely to raise the spectre of patients turning up at the year end and being told they could not have the drug they need because the money had run out.

Bigger list needed of limited NHS drugs

At least a dozen drugs will have to be added to the Government's limited list of drugs for which the National Health Service will pay from April 1, if it is to meet "all clinical needs", according to Britain's specialists in stomach and gut disorders.

Even then an effective appeals machinery will be

needed to allow an excluded drug to be used for the exceptional patient, the British Society of Gastroenterology, which represents more than 1,300 specialists, said.

To produce an effective list, the Government will also have to give way on its insistence that only non-brand named drugs will be permitted.

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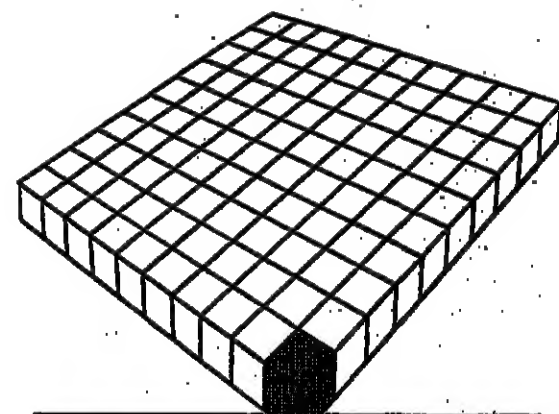
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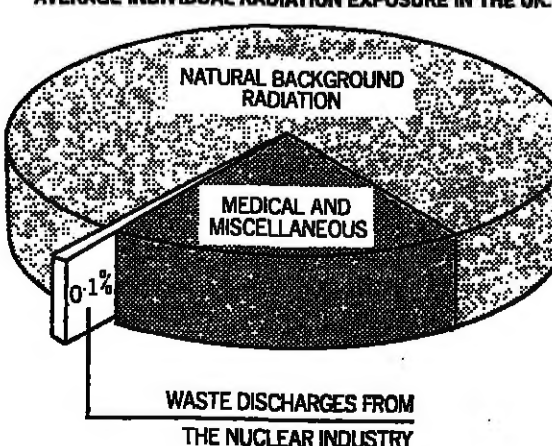
And that's more than a promise—it's a commitment.

For most people the results will be of purely academic interest.

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The average exposure from the whole nuclear industry, including discharges from Sellafield, amounts to just one thousandth of the total.

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For further information write to: Information Services, BNFL, Risley, Warrington, Cheshire WA3 6AS.

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PARLIAMENT JANUARY 16 1985

Rate support grants

Heath's call

Peers on disarmament

Jenkin would like to abandon targets

COUNCIL SPENDING

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Environment, was loudly cheered by opposition MPs when he said in a Commons debate on the rate support grant for English local authorities, he would like to be able to abandon targets and hold back on local council spending.

Much depends (he said) on the level of local authorities' expenditure in 1985-86, and second, on the alternative pressures on them to bear to achieve delivery of the Government's public expenditure plans. I am considering this, but there is nothing more I can say today on that. In any case, I am assuming that the target system has to be retained for 1986-87.

Mr Charles Morrison (Devizes, Ch): All of us from shire counties will support him strongly in his desire to abandon targets in 1986-87 and in the battle he may have with the Treasury, but if they are not abandoned or considerably relaxed, the situation in the shire counties will be dire. Next year is going to be the crunch year.

Mr Jenkin: The more favourable targets which I have given low spending authorities for next year, 1985-86, have been made possible by the savings that are achieved from rate-capping. The highest spenders, rate-capping will continue to produce savings in 1986-87 and thereafter, as we continue to bring down the excessive spending levels of authorities selected for rate capping under the Rates Act.

Low spending authorities will benefit from rate capping. They will go to next year, and we will want that to happen in the year following. Thanks to successive RSG settlements and better management since 1979, the growth in spending has been cut back to below 1 per cent on average per year. Manpower levels have dropped by more than 4 per cent. It was right this pressure to control spending should be sustained.

The people to gain from rate capping are those who would be hit by the ratepayer, both householders and businesses. In each of the last five years, the average rate increase has fallen, despite the annual panic stories from Labour. Last year, the average rate increase was 5.5 per cent, the lowest for 10 years.

In setting out the details of the RSG reports before the House, Mr Jenkin said the main interest lay in the report setting out the settlement for next year, 1985-86.

Many low spending authorities had acknowledged that these targets were more favourable than the targets they had been set before. This year, 84 per cent of authorities were budgeting to spend within 2 per cent of their targets. With more realistic targets, he hoped that that figure would be even higher, so lower ratepayers bear the cost of council's overspending.

Higher current spending meant higher rates, higher rates meant lower profits for industry, lower profits meant less investment, less investment meant fewer jobs.

If all local authorities had shown equal responsibility, there would have been no need for the targets system. In the current year, the total overspend over targets was £830 million and three-quarters of that came from 12 Labour-controlled local authorities.

The total Exchequer grant in the settlement was £11.8 billion which was about the same in cash as grant for the current year but represented a lower percentage of next year's planned expenditure, 48.7 per cent compared with 51.9 per cent.

In each year since 1979 when the grant percentage had been reduced, there had been scare stories of massive rate increases but, in fact, each time the average rate increase had been lower than it was in the previous year. Cutting grant percentage added to the grant pressure which could be put on authorities to

find economies in their spending.

Last year the Opposition had wanted of steep rate increases but the average rate increase was 5.5 per cent, the lowest increase for 10 years.

If local authorities budgeted to meet their targets next year, the average rate increase should be even lower than 5.5 per cent.

Changes made in grant related expenditure assessment this year represented real improvements to the fairness of GREAs overall and therefore in the fairness of the system of distribution of block grant. It could not be right to freeze all GREAs in their present form for all time simply because changes meant there would be losers as well as winners.

A further important change for 1985/86 was to give more of the available grant to authorities spending at or below CREA. The objective was to recognize the achievements of low spenders.

This year 84 per cent of authorities were spending below the target and target and they included authorities of all political colours. They had managed to do so without catastrophic service cuts.

The targets for next year were more favourable for most authorities than this year. Doubtless

they would again be told of the savings which had to be slashed but all the evidence suggested that was wild exaggeration. The targets were realistic.

Ratecapping was introduced deliberately to escape from a situation where responsible low spending councils had to make further cuts to compensate for the overspend of the irresponsible minority.

Selection of 18 authorities for ratecapping next year (the worst) should mean that actual expenditure will be some £400 million lower than it would have been if they had continued on their rate of progress of squandering as they have done in recent years.

For 1985/86 I have used those savings to secure more favourable targets than ever before for low spending authorities, propose to continue to use them to help low spenders in 1986/87 onwards.

Mr John Cunningham, chief Opposition spokesman on environment, said the last Labour Government had provided 61 per cent of the cash support for local councils. This Government had progressively reduced this to just 48.7 per cent.

The Secretary of State had never once mentioned the reduction in cash support and gave no indication that this was likely to cause problems.

This is a persistent and deliberate act (he added) of this Government. The reduction in cash support is the root cause of all the problems. It causes unemployment and undermines the quality of community and public services.

The Prime Minister (Mrs Thatcher) was never present to support Mr Jenkin on these occasions because she was preoccupied by the trauma of a criminal trial and also had to pay the costs of successfully defending himself.

The problem is worse in the case of summary offences where legal aid is frequently refused, the society says. Where a court is unwilling to order payment of

added) are fast increasing because of the appalling social and economic consequences resulting from Government policy. Millions more people face hardship, deprivation and poverty compared to 1979. No improvement in the management of services can hope to offset the combined effects of major increases in demand and the withdrawal by the Government since 1979 of 12 per cent of their finances in real terms.

Education was undermined; so were other services. Redundancies occurred and vacancies were unfilled. These were in reality the signs of Government policy. Towns, cities and boroughs started to suffer neglect.

Councils trying to respond to the legitimate aspirations of the people were not only penalized but subjected to petty abuse and vilification. Ministers and Tory MPs turned a blind eye to all the problems. Ministers also abused their own powers and acted unlawfully. For instance, they had been deliberately and unlawfully robbed of £30m by the Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Nicholas Ridley).

Is he (Mr Cunningham asked) to be discharged, removed from office? Neither does Mr Jenkin himself have a good record in this regard. He ignored his duties in regard to the Greater London development plan and when the courts found against him he ignored them, too, and changed the law.

It was suicidal behaviour that Mr Jenkin should not tell the House about his assumptions in the application of a contemptuous and fundamentally important Act of Parliament.

The claim that the Rates Act was designed to protect ratepayers had a hollow ring when contrasted with today's proposal to reduce by £730 million the support the Government was providing for them. The claim about rate increases being in single figures ignored the impact of what he was doing. Mr Jenkin misled people, too, when he pretended that rates could be held down without serious consequences for jobs and services.

The effect of treating penalties was punitive. For spending 1 per cent above an arbitrarily imposed ceiling, councils would be clobbered.

Ironically, the savage penalty imposed would affect low spending councils worst of all. They would also further blur local accountability by making councillors determine policies not by assessing local needs but by reference to the punitive extra cost enforced by central government.

The dubious use of grant related expenditure plumped over new depths when ministers' manoeuvring to cut council housing finance, using the so-called E7 factor, came

should join the European Monetary system. He bitterly complained that Britain and the whole of Europe was suffering because of US policy.

The Opposition was calling for more state spending to reduce unemployment was rejected by 383 votes to 182 - Government majority, 201, and the Government amendment rejecting Labour's demand for a commitment to higher government spending and endorsing Government policy was carried by 353 votes to 200 - Government majority 153.

Mr David Owen, leader of the Social Democrats, said the Lawson style was a strange mixture of insouciance, indifference, intransigence and sheer incompetence. It was on the last that they indicted the Chancellor today.

It was difficult to balance an industrial economy without a greater degree of stability in the exchange rate. There was a lot that Europe should be telling the US about dealing with the strengthening of the dollar.

He asked why Mr Lawson refused to gain the added strength of the

costs by the prosecution, there is a clear case for it having power to award costs out of central funds to a defendant acquitted in a summary offence and the Bill presents "an opportunity to remedy this injustice".

Another "injustice" is that there is no power either under present law or in the Bill to empower courts to award costs from central funds to a defendant who successfully appeals to the Crown court against a conviction for a summary offence.

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Mrs Brenda Power, chairman of the bench, said that supervision had been inadequate and no one could predict what future harm could have been caused to workmen or even residents nearby.

The company admitted failing to take adequate precautions to contain asbestos dust during demolition work and failing to ensure that an employee was medically examined before working with asbestos.

Continging Symptoms of political chicanery

to light as a result of a leaked document. Grant related expenditure was over £2.5 billion in grant penalties under the present system. That is a measure (he said) of the ferocity of this government's policies.

The Labour Party view of these matters and Tory policies is vast and increasing. We are concerned to enhance local democracy: this Government undermines them.

We condemn this RSG report as mean, vindictive, biased and incompetent. It is typical of the gerrymandering philosophy which this Government has expressed throughout its local government policy.

Mr David Howell (Guildford, C) said he was not against a strategy of reducing central government taxpayer support for local government spending. It was a worthy aim. But if reducing the grant support to local authorities was the year to do the pattern, it must be done in line with a strategy. It was virtually impossible if it was done in the hiccups and sudden way it had been done in recent years.

We shall have a search for overall fairness through a new form of grant-related expenditure calculations. They had only to look at it for a moment to see that it had some bizarre elements.

We shall have no peace and no clear basis or feeling of fairness by local authorities, even the low spenders (he said) until a clearer strategy is established of the pattern of funding by central government, local and central government and how the rate support grant can fairly be reduced in line with the reduction of functions.

Mr Norman Atkinson (Haringey, Lab) said that although the Government constantly referred to the injustices in the system, it had made the injustices worse by its policy.

European monetary system. There were also times when Britain should be prepared to intervene in oil pricing.

Mr Edward Heath (Old Bexley and Sidcup, C) said he was not a voodoo man, but he was not described as voodoo witchcraft. He regarded the present level of unemployment as appalling: the situation north of Watford was shameful.

Public investment had a major part to play in dealing with unemployment. The Chancellor would not have expected him to be convinced by anything he had to say. Public opinion showed itself as giving priority to dealing with unemployment before dealing with tax cuts.

Provision of infrastructure to improve opportunities for private enterprise was a responsibility of Government which could not be privatized. The Government should carry out that responsibility.

There was a danger that British savings were drained across the Atlantic in search of high interest

rates. British companies were not investing in Britain but putting their money on deposit in search of high interest rates in the United States.

Other countries used their powers of intervention in the money market effectively and selectively, but not continuously, at a time when they could get the speculators to burn their fingers. That was a technique to which this country must return. They could not sit back and think the market would do everything for them.

The international market was dominated by the United States regardless of everybody else's interests. The Chancellor would return empty-handed from Washington because the American administration was not in a mood to run its policy in any other way and even if it wanted to, the American people would not let it. They were riding high, on a budget deficit of \$200 billion and a trade deficit of \$130 billion and rising.

Nothing the Chancellor had said today would give any hope to the nearly four million unemployed.

There was a danger that British savings were drained across the Atlantic in search of high interest

work with it. I would far rather work with them than with the gas or electricity boards.

"I think part of the opposition may have been due to jealousy. People thought that if we were going to make a lot of money out of it."

In fact Mr Porter has received nothing more than compensation for the small acreage of land on which he can no longer grow crops, and an annual rent determined on its agricultural value.

In return he has an improved road, which people use to cross

'Generous George' suggests the way out

TEACHERS' PAY

By far the most reasonable way to consider Scottish teachers' pay was through the body set up to examine it, Mr George Younger, Secretary of State for Scotland, told the Commons during Scottish questions. He said he had disagreed with the method by which the teachers wanted their case considered.

But (he added) I pointed to a way forward by which - all matters, including service conditions, can be looked into rather than bust up our children's education. We should take that way forward.

He said he had written again on January 8 to the teachers' side of the Scottish Joint Negotiating Committee for testing staff in inviting them to give further thought to his earlier proposal that it should carry out a detailed examination of salaries and conditions of service together. He understood the SJNC had decided yesterday (Tuesday) to make a joint approach to him for a meeting.

Mr Richard Douglas (Dunfermline West, Lab): The manner in which he adds to himself up as a "Generous George" is misplaced in relation to actually.

Under Mr Younger's administration, teachers in Scotland have fallen far behind the level of pay they should expect. Is it not a farce to suggest that he or the Government have no responsibility for ensuring that teachers pay keeps up with at least the level of inflation?

Mr Younger had united the teaching forces against his Government.

Mr Younger: I do not accept Mr Douglas' figures. While I fully appreciate that Scottish teachers feel strongly about what they see as injustices, they are complaining about them in the wrong way. By far with it is to ask the body which was set up for precisely that reason to look into this.

Mr Donald Stewart (Western Isles, SNP): Is Mr Younger not surprised at the action of the Scottish teacher after ten years' erosion of salary levels and what they find is the futility of dealing with him? Far from playing the role of "Generous George" he is playing that of "Generous Jaruzelski". One thing that is surprising is the forbearance of the teaching profession.

Mr Younger: Comparing Scottish teachers' pay since 1979 with other grades, they have had similar rates as local authority and civil servants. I have not turned down their complaints out of hand. Rather than disrupt our schools, I hope they take up my suggestion.

Mr Gordon Wilson (Dundee East, SNP): Suggested that the reason why Mr Younger could not get ahead with public expenditure plans was because of an instruction from the Treasury about the planned tax cuts at Easter.

Mr Younger said the teachers' employers were in much the same position as any other employers in Britain and had to consider what was reasonable to give them.

Mr Barry Henderson (North East Fife, Lab) said the responsible settlement in Scotland last year was a reasonable one. It was not to be taken into account. When there was militancy by the

teacher in England they got their salary increase. He compared the pay increase of teachers and MPs. Mr Younger said that the hours worked should also be compared. Mr Donald Stewart, chief Opposition spokesman on Scotland, said it was no good ministers deploring the damage which might come from industrial action when Mr Younger's obstinacy lay at the root of the problem.

Mr Younger's refusal to accept an independent pay review was a tacit acceptance that teachers' salaries had fallen behind what was reasonable and did not measure up to the responsibilities of the job.

If the Secretary of State was right in saying that teachers' had done

set one up, risking plunging pupils in Scotland into a lot of disruption, and difficulty?

He should reconsider his proposition that any salary upping could be bought by teachers at the expense of their own terms and conditions of employment.

Mr Younger said he was glad to hear Mr Stewart saying criticism about damage to the services because that seemed a deplorable development.

I do hope (he continued) that we can have the interests of schoolchildren in mind. Now I have agreed to meet the SJNC as requested, I hope I can take in the disruption of schools will now stop at least until after the meeting.

I wish to make plain yet again that though I might have done so, I have not turned down the teachers' concerns out of hand. The impression has been given that I have.

Mr Allan Stewart (Dumfries, SNP) added later that it was ironic that the Educational Institute of Scotland had asked the Government to speed up its plans for raising the standard grade but were now disrupting the reforms, widely agreed to be desirable, in the interests of Scottish pupils.

Not only does disruption cause damage to the education of Scottish pupils, (he said) but it cannot possibly do the case of the teachers any good whatsoever.

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Geneva the first step on difficult road

DISARMAMENT

The beginnings of a thaw in East-West relations which has been achieved at the recent disarmament talks in Geneva provided the perfect opportunity to press home the need for all nations to join together in opposition to nuclear weapons.

Lord Malley (Lab) said in opening a debate in the House of Lords on the need for the Government to take the initiative in bringing forward new and realistic proposals for world disarmament.

It was no longer a question of war and peace, but about the entire future of the globe, he said. The world was moving rapidly towards a final thermo-nuclear war and the only escape was for the peoples of all nations to use their power and influence in unison. It could not be done by one people or one government: it could be done only by all.

There was a greater enemy than the Soviet Union and that enemy was inaction; disarmament had been talked about for years. I would be justifiably proud (he said) if the initial steps were taken by my nation.

Lord Kesteven (SDP) said there could be no question of any possibility of this country giving up its independent nuclear deterrent force after disarmament talks in Geneva which it was not present. On the other hand, this country should be in a position to reduce its weapons when the time came and finally to give them up when the time came after negotiations and agreement.

The Bishop of Oxford, the Rt Rev Patrick Roderick, said the first word of the House to the Government should be one of encouragement not to be afraid to persevere vigorously in the face of that kind of fatism which so easily overtook their contemporaries when the subject of world disarmament was discussed.

Just as (he said) the smallest nation is capable of being a serious trouble-maker and setting a match to the conflagration there is no nation so small that it could not by a wise and specific policy make some contribution to disarmament in its own region.

Why should we not begin, for example, by working for the creation of quite a narrow zone in central Europe free of nuclear and chemical weapons: a zone to be extended in depth as confidence grows?

Lord Brockway (Lab) said the Government should support a treaty against the first use not only of nuclear weapons but of conventional weapons as well. There were all the conditions in the world now for such a treaty.

Lord Chalfont (Ind) said it would be unwise of become too euphoric about the results of the meeting in Geneva which was only a hesitant first step forward and within 24 hours the Soviet Union had announced conditions for the success of the talks including the abandonment by the United States of its strategic defence initiative.

Unilateral disarmament would be dangerous and destabilising but equally dangerous would be nuclear disarmament in isolation from other forms of conventional arms and chemical weapons.

Lord Graham of Edmonton, from the Opposition front bench, said it was not surprising that after 40 years of the East and West glaring at each other there should be suspicions on both sides.

Lady Young Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said a nuclear freeze would perpetuate some important imbalances between East and West in

favour of the Soviet Union. A nuclear weapon free zone in Europe would undermine and not reinforce the principle of nuclear deterrence. In favour of the principle of nuclear weapon free zones in areas where nuclear weapons were not yet a factor in the security balance.

Commitments on no first use of force already existed in the United Nations Charter and Helsinki Final Act.

The fact that negotiations would now re-open demonstrated that the firmness and political self-confidence of the Atlantic Alliance over the past four years had paid off. But Geneva was only a first step on a long and difficult road. Persistence and realism would be required. The key to success would be to find the right blend of imagination, common sense and respect for the legitimate security interests of East and West.

The Government was deeply concerned to bring disarmament to this country and its allies which was posed by the Soviet chemical warfare capability. The answer was a negotiated world-wide ban. There was no truth in the claim that the Government was considering manufacturing chemical weapons.

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Bill gives leaseholders right to choose

INSURANCE

A Bill to give leaseholders a choice of insurance company with whom to insure their property was given a formal first reading, after being presented in the Commons by Mr Robin Corbett (Birmingham, Ed, London, Lab).

He said that it would give leaseholders a choice of three companies and end the present outrageous, unfair and extortionate practice which locked leaseholders into a long-term financial arrangement which denied them choice.

He said that the present situation, by which a freeholder could dictate which company insured a property affected the leaseholders of 1,400,000 flats and houses in England and Wales.

It was not always the case that the

use of a single insurer for all the leaseholders of one freeholder resulted in lower premiums for the leaseholders.

One leaseholder had suggested a letter from the freeholder saying that they proposed to exercise their legal power to say which company should insure the property and adding that those who failed to carry out that direction would face proceedings for forfeiture of the lease and payment of the costs.

What made that high-handed action the more unacceptable was that the costs of £150 per £100 of the Bill would help householders and encourage proper competition.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Debate on regional policy, Lords (3.15): Prosecution of Offences Bill, committee, first day.

People acquitted in JPs' courts 'should get costs'

By Frances Gibb Legal Affairs Correspondent

The present injustice whereby defendants acquitted in magistrates' courts may be left to find the costs out of their own pockets should be ended by an amendment to the Prosecution of Offences Bill, the Law Society says today.

In a briefing paper for peers at the start of the Lord's committee stage considering the Bill, the society says that proposals redefining courts' powers on the awarding of costs do not go far enough.

Under the Bill both magistrates' courts and the Crown court will be able to award costs to acquitted defendants out of central funds in indictable (triable by jury) cases.

But the same powers should apply to summary offences (triable only by magistrates), such as offences of criminal damage involving £200 or less, obstructions of, or assaults on, police officers, certain public order offences, common or

aggravated assaults and many driving offences which can lead to disqualification.

As the law stands, the society says, courts can award costs only in the case of offences triable either only at the Crown court or by either Crown or magistrates' courts. But courts are reluctant to award costs against the prosecution unless it has obviously been at fault in bringing proceedings.

As a result, "a substantial injustice is often done to defendants who are acquitted and left to pay their own costs."

It says. The defendant feels doubly aggrieved because he has been through the trauma of a criminal trial and also has to pay the costs of successfully defending himself.

The problem is worse in the case of summary offences where legal aid is frequently refused, the society says. Where a court is unwilling to order payment of

costs by the prosecution, there is a clear case for it having power to award costs out of central funds to a defendant acquitted in a summary offence and the Bill presents "an opportunity to remedy this injustice".

Another "injustice" is that there is no power either under present law or in the Bill to empower courts to award costs from central funds to a defendant who successfully appeals to the Crown court against a conviction for a summary offence.

The society makes several other suggestions to improve the Bill: in particular it suggests that the local Crown prosecutors must be of sufficient status in order to be able to deal with the local chief constable on an equal footing; and that the prosecutors' independence must not be compromised through having to give advice to the police.

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Too few experts as risk grows of new infections, physicians say

By Thomson Prentice

Science Correspondent

New and rare infections in Britain, including Aids, Legionnaires' disease and Lassa fever, are posing increasing hazards to public health, while the number of specialists who can deal with them is declining according to a report published this week.

At any time, 20 per cent of hospital patients in England and Wales are suffering from infections, half of which are acquired in hospital. But there are only 44 consultants in infection, and only eight in tropical medicine throughout Britain, the Royal College of Physicians of London says in the report, which appears in the January issue of its journal.

It adds: "Most specialists in community medicine today have little or no training or experience in infectious diseases and tropical medicine, and yet are faced with grave responsibility when outbreaks of infection occur in the community or in hospital."

The hospital infections are causing particular concern among certain groups of patients, including the newborn, the elderly, those undergoing major surgery and requiring intensive care, and transplant patients who are receiving immunosuppressive drugs, the college says.

"Increasingly, such infections are caused by less common organisms which are frequently resistant to standard antibiotics. In addition, hitherto unrecognized infections such as Legionnaires' disease and the acquired immune deficiency syndrome (Aids) are constantly emerging and posing new diagnostic and therapeutic problems."

An increase in imported infections has been caused by the "enormous escalation in air travel", the college says, and sometimes, as with Lassa fever, there are "onerous public health implications."

The training of microbiology

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Aids) is a disease, transmitted through contaminated blood, and other body fluids, which attacks the central nervous system. In the United States, 3,687 of the known sufferers have died. In Britain, 46 of 108 such patients have died.

Although scientists in Europe and America have identified a virus, known as HTLV-III, as the probable carrier of the disease, many of the factors associated with it are unknown, and no effective treatment has been found.

In Britain, all cases known to doctors are registered by the Communicable Diseases Surveillance Centre at Collindale, north London.

staff in parasitology is "inadequate", and the fact that there are so few paediatricians in Britain with a special interest and training in infection is "a matter of concern", according to the report.

The College recommends that the number of infectious diseases physicians should be increased from the present figure of between 60 to 70, and that they should be trained in the management of imported infections, including parasitic diseases.

It also suggests that some smaller hospitals might have a post serving two special interests, such as respiratory medicine and infection, or immunology and infection. A few such posts already exist. The number of paediatricians with special interest and training in infection should also be increased.

Future consultant staffing in communicable and tropical diseases, Journal of the Royal College of Physicians of London, The Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrew's Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4LE.

Changing the face of Whitehall to meet needs of government

Programme will cost more than £100m

By Charles Kneivitt

Architecture Correspondent

After 20 years of debate, indecision and blight, Whitehall is gradually being rebuilt as the home of government. By the time the current programme of new building, restoration and repair is complete at the turn of the century, the final bill will be well in excess of £100 million.

Work is being organized by the Whitehall Co-ordination Committee of the Property Services Agency, part of the Department of the Environment. Mr Colin Pain, assistant director of the agency's London region, describes its role as looking at the rationalization, refurbishment and redevelopment of the area, a process which involves the location of people in government departments, as much as the physical state of the property portfolio.

At the Foreign and Commonwealth office a £4.5 million first phase contract of a five-phase refurbishment plan has begun, that is on top of £5.5 million which was spent three years ago after the Home Office moved out. Across the road on the other side of the Cenotaph, more than £28 million is being spent on rebuilding Richmond Terrace as the probable home of the Overseas Development Administration.



Mr William Whitfield with a model of Richmond Terrace development (foreground) and new buildings designed by him (right of centre).

On the neighbouring Bridge Street site, Sir Hugh Casson is providing a new House of Commons library and MPs' offices behind the listed facade on Parliament Street. In the first of a two-phase plan. If all the approvals are obtained, the £16 million phase one scheme will be completed by 1990.

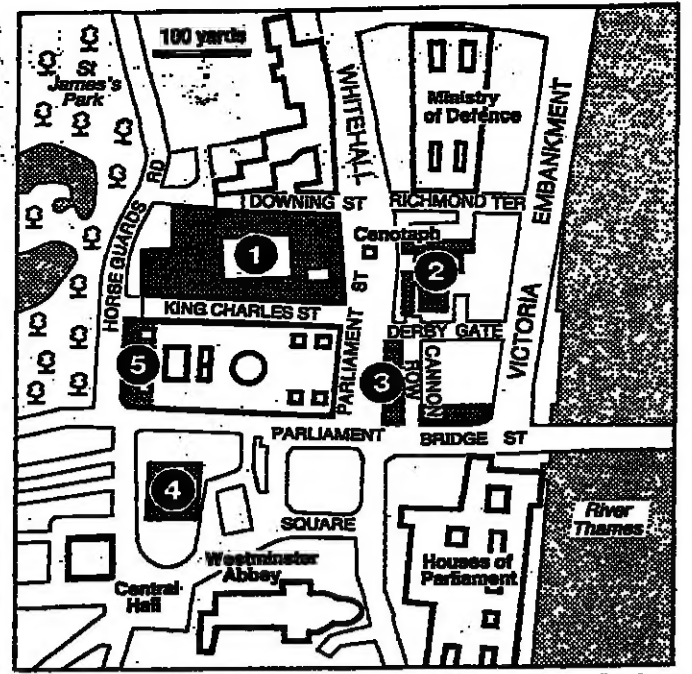
The most prominent new building, so far as public and tourists are concerned, is the

£44 million International Conference Centre in Broad Sanctuary, opposite Westminster Abbey, due for completion early next year.

In addition to the rebuilding and refurbishment, the rolling programme of stone repair, restoration and conservation at the Houses of Parliament is also at the half-way stage, at undisclosed cost, with the east facade, internal courtyard and

Victoria Tower due for completion within five years.

Gone are the two ambitious plans for MPs' accommodation in new buildings on Bridge Street, contained in the Robin Webster and Robin Spence competition design of 1973 for a bronze-clad block with saunas, restaurants and a roof garden; and Sir Hugh's earlier (1978) scheme, for a £119 million building for the same site.



Whitehall facilities: 1. Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Old Public Office). Work began last April includes stripping out asbestos, new services (such as heating, lighting, etc), new telecommunications facilities and security measures, double glazing rooflights and cleaning marble inside the building, which covers 5.5 acres. Phase two is due to start in October 1988 in a rolling programme to the turn of the century. 2. Richmond Terrace. Development of the Grade II Georgian terrace is in three parts. The terrace is being reconstructed to one-room depth behind the listed facade, and linked to a new six-storey building behind. The adjoining buildings facing Whitehall and Parliament Street will be refurbished and their facades restored. 3. Bridge Street. Phase one, in Parliament Street, is to be completed by a Commons sub-committee in the next few weeks. The proposal will keep St Stephen's Tavern, the MP's public house, and the 'facades' along

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SDLP seeks changes in court ritual

From Richard Ford

Belfast

Sweeping changes in the practices and symbols of Northern Ireland's courts are recommended in a Social Democratic and Labour Party document. It is bound to anger unionists as it proposes removing references to the Crown and changing the name of the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

The changes, suggested in a paper to be discussed at the party's annual conference, would end symbols and practices which the document describes as reflecting the "unionist ethos" of the court.

If the changes were implemented the party argues, it would help to restore the nationalist community's confidence.

The party is critical of the use of informers, plastic bullets and the operation of the police authority and the complaints procedure.

It says, that the composition of the judiciary, with 17 members drawn from the Protestant-Unionist tradition and only three from the Catholic-Nationalist tradition, is hardly balanced.

Arguing that addressing magistrates and judges as "My Lord" and "Your Honour" is seen by nationalists as having a ring of British Colonialism, it suggests that in the province they should be addressed simply as "Judge" and "Mr/Madam magistrate".

'No decision yet' on books tax

The Prime Minister has told senior academics that speculation about value-added tax being imposed on books and journals "has not been inspired by the Government."

Lord Flowers, chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, Sir Andrew Huxley, president of the Royal Society, and Professor Owen Chadwick, president of the British Academy, wrote to Mrs Margaret Thatcher expressing "deep concern".

Mrs Thatcher replied that although the Government favoured a shift from taxes on earnings to taxes on spending, "we have no set views at present on how this might best be done".

Cabbie's son

Miss Janice Reid, who was living with Mr David Wilkie, the taxi driver who was killed taking a miner to work, gave birth to his son at the University Hospital of Wales in Cardiff on Tuesday.

Shrine attack

Hundreds of pounds of damage was caused when vandals smashed eight statues of saints and angels at Carfin Grotto, Lanarkshire.

Store expansion

Fine Fare, the supermarket chain is opening nine new shops in Scotland next year, creating about 1,500 new jobs.

Heart repair hope for girl

The Australian girl whose father robbed a McDonald's hamburger bar to pay for her to have a heart and lung transplant may instead undergo an operation to repair her heart.

Doctors at the National Heart Hospital in London have been carrying out extensive tests on Brooke Matthews, aged five, during the past week.

The hospital said yesterday that detailed heart X-ray photographs were being studied by Mr Magdi Yacoub, the transplant surgeon, and Dr Jane Somerville, a consultant paediatric cardiologist.

They would decide, probably today, whether "radical repair work" could be performed on the heart.

LAURA ASHLEY

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THE ARTS

London theatre

Fatal alliance in masterly relief

Waste
The Pit

This is the latest event in the slow-motion Graaiville Barker revival that has been going on for the past 20 years, each production revealing a master dramatist and each followed by another few years' neglect. I have given up hoping that these extraordinary plays will be absorbed into the standard repertory. But meanwhile here is a beautiful version of his final, once-banned, play, to be cherished before it too, in Barker's embittered phrase, ploughs into the sands.

Focusing on the kind of scandal that crops up in British public life, from Charles Dile to Cecil Parkinson, *Waste* follows the defeated career of Henry Trebell - a lawyer-politician who has drafted a Bill for the disestablishment of the Church of England, with which his party hopes to win the general election. The plan fails in pieces when it comes to light that Trebell has casually impregnated a fellow guest at a house party, her abortion and death are swiftly capped by his political downfall and suicide.

From that account you would expect a melodrama. What Barker presents is a symphonic elaboration of the story, examining the workings of the political system, the differing factions that meet in temporary alliance along an intricate borderland between public and private life.

At every point the play contradicts your expectations of the Edwardian theatre (it dates from 1907). There are no appeals to public opinion and no moralizing. The affair is conducted in terms of straightforward physical hunger, with no sympathetic invocations for a "wronged woman" (who is variously described as "worthless" and a "trull"). The two deaths are displaced from the action and introduced only in passing.

Bravest of all, Barker angrily protests against the waste of a great statesman while denying

him any conventionally attractive qualities. He is cold-blooded, egocentric, and he never apologizes. What you can say for him is that he always speaks the truth, and that, when he speaks of education as his religion and envisages dismantled churches humming with new intellectual life, you can share his vision and accept him on the play's valuation. In that respect, fastidiously withdrawn as he may be, he is a decided improvement on his ineffectual predecessor in Barker's *The Madman House*.

John Barton's production is a conflation of the 1907 text and the rewritten version Barker prepared for the 1936 production; and the invisible meaning has yielded a lucidly plotted version, pruned of political obscurities and preserving the stylistic balance of extreme fastidiousness and plain speech that defines this author's unmistakable voice. Here is the sound of the Edwardian establishment on its home ground: elevated businessmen, bone-headed gentry, burning religious fervour, all under the silky control of a party leader (Tony Church) to whom the fate of the family pictures is of equal importance to the task of forming a government.

The sound of Mr Church in debate with these factions (Mark Dignam, David Killick, Charles Kay) is theatrical music of a high order. But, whether or not Mr Barton intended it, that debate is overshadowed by the Trebell-Amy affair. Judi Dench's Amy undergoes a staggering transformation from a flirtatious bird of paradise with a soft Irish brogue in the first act to the desperate, businesslike woman who comes seeking a few moments of valuable time. Daniel Massey, challenged and at bay throughout the evening, turns to pure granite at her demand for an abortion.

It is a scarily intimate collision between two people who should never have met in the first place; but Miss Dench, making her exit to a back-street quick, decisively wins it with



Searingly intimate collision: Daniel Massey and Judi Dench in *Waste*

her last appeal: "What impractical, sentimental children you men are. Tell me somewhere I can go." Though even this is outmatched in Trebell's later encounter with his sister (Maria Aitken) and with Amy's separated Irish husband (Bruce Alexander), a derisive medievalist who sees British politics from the vantage point of the thirteenth century. Never was there a character more remote from the stage Irishman.

Irving Wardle

Eden

Soho Poly

In his literature, civilized man has always harboured idyllic visions of an arcadian golden

land of love and happiness. An Eden. A new play by Adrian Ekersley imaginatively poses the question what if...? What if it were both an uncharted desert island and a man? And suppose a suburban Henderson family were to go in search of it and find this sole surviving inhabitant?

At first it seems possible that dreams can come true. Eden the man has long prayed for the return of humankind (it seems the place was once an exotic and exclusive resort for the nineteenth-century social set). When it happens his gratitude changes him from solitary lord to willing slave.

As the encounter develops, the set changes from a colourful Rorschach inkblot background to a gloomy primitivist jungle as the characters move from hopes as wide as sea and sky to

the murky thickets of their inner selves. The Man Friday (Joseph Charles) turns out to be part sacrificial victim, offering himself too fully to each member of the family, and part psychiatric witch-doctor, unlocking their individual passions and obsessions.

The mood darkens and the noble savage catalyzes the savage sexuality in each breast: its exclusivity and jealousy cleaving family bonds asunder. The crusty, blimpish father (Michael Cotterill), at first a noising colonial prejudice, is revealed as homo-erotic Mum (Pat Rossiter) has ghoulish, lurking amidst her suppressed sexuality. Only the spunky daughter (Catherine Clarke), armed with the adaptability and insight of youth,

manages to emerge unscathed, but wiser, from the experience.

But the Pleasure Principle company, and their director Mark Scanlbury, have not resolved the tensions between television sitcom acting and humour and an obvious desire for Eden to be regarded as a serious parable. Though the play is at times provocative and intriguing, suspension of disbelief becomes increasingly unwilling as the improbabilities multiply towards its sub-*Lord of the Flies* climax. And the writing struggles to hang on to its Big Themes somewhere between semi-mythical piddling and Henderson colloquial. Still, Roy Plomley's guests never imagined a desert island could be like this.

Robert Page

Theatre in the
United States:
Holly Hill finds one
precious stone
among rather more
rubble on the New
York stage

Joyful
hymn to
national
game

"The Team" in *Diamonds*:
engaging singing, dancing
and clowning

Spare me the tedium of real baseball games, but take me back to *Diamonds* (Circle in the Square-Downtown), the new Off-Broadway musical celebrating America's national sport. Zippily staged by Harold Prince, with sketches and songs by numerous contributors, the revue beguiles from the first sight of Tony Straiges's set. Cartoons of stadiums, famous players, slogans and clouds on a summer's day dot the walls, and in the finale the Statue of Liberty pops up wearing a catcher's mitt.

Surrounded by such amusing and apt decorations, a thoroughly engaging cast of 10 act, sing, dance and clown through 30 mostly clever and sometimes touching vignettes. Among my favourites was "Kasi Atta Bar". This Kabuki version of the famous American poem "Casey at the Bat" ends with "Casey" committing a "suicide play" and is interrupted by a vendor crying "sushi-gee it while it's cold".

Other joys were John Lehr's "Psyched Out", in which Freud is aghast and a-glee when a baseball player describes his game problems in such double-entendres as switch-hitting, double headers and scoring. The



song of a proper young lady who turns foul-mouthed when she watches baseball, a version of the Abbott and Costello "Who's on First" played by an adult and a child, a lovely Walter Mitty-type ballad, "What You'd Call a Dream" by Craig Carnelia (wonderfully sung by Scott Holmes), and a rousing gospel number about God throwing out the first ball make *Diamonds* a delight.

Also, four dramas recently opened had no such quality. Most successful of them was Martin Sherman's *Messiah* (Manhattan Theatre Club at City Center). The set of Tony Straiges (this Tony-winning designer of *Sunday in the Park with George* continues to dazzle with seemingly effortless inventiveness), a sparsely elegant rough wood floor and background, Linda Fisher's graceful costumes, and James F. Ingalle's evocative lighting suggest seventeenth-century Poland while being richly theatrical.

A beautiful young actress (as demonstrated in the film *Wolfer*, where she played opposite Albert Finney), Diane Venora has transformed herself into a variable hag for Rachel, and blends an inner radiance with earthy humour. Under David Leveaux's direction, she and a capable supporting cast carry Mr Sherman's play as far as it can go, as it loses momentum along with the bogus Messiah, leaving one not satisfied but stimulated.

Less can be said for the Manhattan Theatre Club's second offering, *Husbandry*, a product of last year's Louisville Humana Festival of New American Plays, is a drama behind its time. The troubled farm family Patrick Tovatt draws may have been topical when they sprang from his pen, but have been superseded by

such films as *Country* and *Places in the Heart*. As the author goes no deeper than the conflict between an ageing couple who want their son to come home and run the failing farm and his metropolitan career-minded wife, and leaves the dispute unresolved, the subject appears more hackneyed than it is.

The same is true of *Home Front* (Royale Theatre), the Broadway version of last summer's Hampstead Theatre Club offering, *The War at Home*. The balance of James Duff's post-Vietnam domestic drama has shifted here to the

comedic, largely due to the decent but lightweight performances of Carroll O'Connor as the father and Christopher Fields as the son. Mr O'Connor has not the rampaging bull quality of Timothy West; Mr Fields has none of the crupine menace of David Threlkoff. While Frances Sternhagen is even better as the mother, having made her performance seamless somewhere between our shores, and Linda Cook in her Broadway debut approaches similar perfection as the daughter, the relative blandness of the men weakens the family stresses and renders the final scene even less believable than at Hampstead. One odd note: the Texas accents of the British cast were more authentic and sustained than those here.

A drama weighted by foggy ideas and inconsistent characters is Bill C. Davis's *Dancing in the End Zone* (Ritz Theatre). Though I have yet to see a play directed by Melvin Bernhardt in which most actors achieve more than student stereotypes, the performers in *End Zone* are also hampered by flimsy characters - a possessive mother who may only be pretending to be an invalid, a naive college football player, a ruthless coach and a do-gooder tutor who equates football with war.

Most notable about *Dancing in the End Zone* was the successful attempt of its producer, Morton Gottlieb, to persuade all the participating unions and the theatre owners to work for less than the usual rates, in order to hold production costs and ticket prices down. If only better plays can be found, this noble effort to find a way of keeping straight plays on Broadway may yet succour America's Fabulous Invalid.

Inner radiance, earthy
humour: Diane Venora
transformed into a variable
hag in *Messiah*



Real Lives (BBC 1) followed the interesting career of Victoria Mullova, a Russian violinist who defected to the United States in 1963. She was greeted in a blaze of publicity but, as other defectors have discovered, the consequences of the freedom she sought with such assiduity are not always as expected.

As an account of her entry into a new world, this was a fascinating documentary: she learnt first how much she was "worth", since she soon realized that she had come to a country in which the power and dominance of money are taken for granted. And, with the money, came self-promotion as she was trained to change her manner on the concert platform: "The severe unsmiling style of Soviet soloists", the commentator explained in almost too alliterative a manner, "is not popular".

There were more serious problems, however. The male companion with whom she defected was finding it difficult to get work as a conductor (his was in some ways the more interesting, because more poignant, story), and Mullova herself was forced to confront that apparently non-Soviet institution, the music critic. Her interpretations were described as "impersonal" or "cold", although those of course were the very qualities which allowed her to abandon her family and leave her homeland.

But she seemed happy enough: this stern, and very determined, young woman has in any case already proved that life is something to be grasped and manipulated rather than passively accepted. America may be her spiritual home, after all.

Television

Manipulating lives

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Anna of the Five Towns (BBC)

"A clever, spooky film..."

Nicole Calfan is terrific.

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Concerts

Voices decoded

BBCPO/Berio
Free Trade Hall,
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Some of the most fascinating musical works are those that were never written, like Beethoven's *Faust* or Wagner's late symphonies. To this repertory of the imagination may now be added, if on a lower level, Luciano Berio's orchestral arrangement of Brahms's *F minor Viola Sonata*, which was promised for Tuesday night's concert by the BBC Philharmonic but replaced in the event by a new work for viola and chamber orchestra, *Incisi*.

Berio being Berio, though, present reality was smeared with past possibility, if not in any overt reference to Brahms then certainly in the continuation of the idea of transcription. *Incisi* has the subtitle "Folk Songs II" and takes its material from the songs and street cries of Sicily, collected for the occasion by its soloist Aldo Bennici.

Unlike Berio's first *Folk Songs*, which consisted more simply of settings for Cathy Berberian to sing, *Incisi* is a fantasy woven around the original melodies. Of course, the fact that they are sung by an instrument and not a voice makes a difference, even if Mr Bennici's viola proved itself eminently capable of suggesting ethnic models: rough, guttural singing, guitar accompaniment, and oriental drone-rooted lament. But, as anyone who learns his literary theory from David Lodge will be aware, any decoding is a new encoding, and Berio acknowledges this.

He decodes the folk music for

his solo viola then encodes it as a single-movement concerto of commentary and reminiscence.

The piece begins with the viola alone, and in a sense the soloist remains alone throughout, playing almost continuously along a pathway of whole tones, variants and motifs that seem to get stuck in his consciousness. Meanwhile the orchestra supports and qualifies but only rarely interrupts his monologue: there is one moment near the end when solo woodwinds flower in a tissue of folk songs, but more normally the ensemble is a haze around the viola, murmurous and tantalizing in the distance, or sometimes coming into closer focus. The work belongs with other chamber concertos by Berio for cello and piano, in which a soliloquy is given shimmering accompaniment, though in this case the Sicilian origin gives the solo line a harder profile.

The other work in the programme, also conducted by Berio, was his classic *Sinfonia*, which has recently been right royally decoded and encoded in a monograph by David Osmund-Smith, *Playing on Words* (Royal Musical Association, £10.95).

As this study shows, there is a lot more to the work than the parade of quotations that spins through its central movement. Berio's own performance, helped by clear articulation and bright tone from the orchestra singing, guitar accompaniment, and oriental drone-rooted lament, brought forward its jittery rhythms and cool harmonic lights, the consonant patterns and vowel sounds of an orchestra that speaks.

Paul Griffiths

Versatile winds

Chilton/Payne/
Bennett
Wigmore Hall

A windy night at the Wigmore; wheezes from the accordion and gusty blasts from the saxophone. The decibel power of Tim Payne's playing in Denisov's raucous *Sonata for Alto Saxophone* was alarming and in Claude Pascal's entirely trivial *Sonatine* for the same instrument he and his spirited pianist, Dina Bennett, swept the torrent of notes (originally a showpiece for Marcel Mule) away like a confident snow-plough.

We might have disappeared altogether in the drift had Payne's saxophone and John Chilton's accordion played together, but they did not risk that (the repertoire must be circumscribed - perhaps they could have adapted Seiber's *Introduction and Allegro* for Accordion and Cello).

Instead, Chilton demonstrated a wide range of uses for his instrument, from the relatively conventional in Robert Saxton's *Fantasiestuck* to the positively bizarre in Jonty Harrison's *(Sg)Wheeze*. In the Saxton, receiving its first London performance, this most colouristically resourceful of composers had to cope with an extremely limited palette of sound. The three-note cell which began the work threw up some good material, but the

extensive two-part writing began to sound a little grey and certainly was less rhythmically well defined in performance than the programme note's remarks about metrical modulation led one to expect.

Harrison's *(Sg)Wheeze*, described as Music Theatre for Accordionist and Tape, promised some fun a la Kagel but turned out whimsical rather than amusing: a couple of minutes of air noise, followed by the odd random note, puppet-like gestures, the player bewildered by the interruption of the taped accordion noise, and after ten minutes a sort of cataclysmic throwing of musical bricks out of which emerged a single pedal note that the accordion player, with evident satisfaction, matched.

By far the sweetest music, however, came in Howard Skempton's *Twin Set and Pearls*: this alone acknowledged the traditional language of the accordion in a lovely sequence of several simple ideas, "brightly" with um-pah accompaniment, "gently" with harmonious thirds, "lightly" with a single line, "sturdily" with church harmonium chord sequences, "steadily" with Messiaen-like devotion, "slowly" with dislocated counterpoint and finally "extremely slowly" coming to rest on a reposeful major chord. Nice to hear one of those again.

Nicholas Kenyon

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SPECTRUM

The man with a price on his head

The Times Profile:
Nigel Lawson

"So far the Government's life, the preparation of public opinion and the communication of government policy have been its areas of greatest weakness. But although it is true enough that actions speak louder than words - and certainly words without action are useless - actions without words are usually dangerous and often impossible."

Not, as you might suppose, a commentary on the Chancellor's confusions over the pound - but Nigel Lawson himself, writing of his predecessor-but-one as Conservative Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1973. Thus do the words blithely let loose by a journalist return against him in government. Lawson is learning about communication the hard way.

The Chancellor is the fastest-risen of the Prime Minister's men. Like a soufflé, he is now surrounded by colleagues wondering if he is

kind of grudging respect. Healey, after all, had terrorized, fascinated and deeply impressed his Treasury civil servants.

There is something in the comparison. Lawson, like Healey, is possessed of high intelligence and a certain brutish aggression, easily repulsed by the strong but condemned by the weak as arrogant; both men take insufficient pains with the fools that litter their chosen professions.

One journalist Lawson admires once described him as "a man who would cross a road to pick a fight". Lawson may lack Healey's sparkling literary scholarship, but also his hide. Today's Chancellor is sensitive and nervous about his public performances.

But in 1979, of course, he above all lacked Healey's weight. Nevertheless, he became, in public and in private, the creator and apologist of government economic thinking.

Inside the Treasury, while Sir Geoffrey Howe favoured exhaustive discussions of the options, Lawson favoured the single stroke of policy.

At this time Lawson forged a close alliance with the two officials who now run the Treasury under his Chancellorship - Sir Terence Burns, the Chief Economic Adviser imported from the London Business School, aged only 35, in 1980, and Sir Peter Middleton, the Deputy Secretary in charge of monetary policy who leap-frogged his superiors to become Permanent Secretary in 1983.

But in 1981 Lawson himself was overtaken - by a rather similar, though younger, Thatcher man, Mr Leon Brittan, lawyer and brother of Lawson's friend Sam Brittan of the *Financial Times*, was brought into the Treasury. He entered above Lawson, and in the Cabinet, as Chief Secretary, a thankless job which consists of beating down other departments' demands for cash.

Lawson's first big set-piece - his 1984 Budget - was a triumph

Wholly unprepared for the role, Brittan nevertheless survived and indeed enhanced his reputation. But when Mrs Thatcher was looking for a new chancellor, she sent the lawyer to the Home Office and brought the financial journalist back to the Treasury.

Lawson had meanwhile secured a seat in the Cabinet as Energy Secretary. It was a time when the Government was embarking on the choppy waters of privatization, and Lawson was soon in the thick of the storm. Share prices too high or too low threatened to wreck the reputation of the officiating minister, while a brawl with Sir Denis Rooke, strap of the gas industry, exploded into public. But Lawson was spared a miners' strike and arrived at the 1983 election with a considerable increase in political weight.

At the Treasury, Lawson's old allies rejoiced at this appointment, but from the beginning there was a risk of imbalance. The top of the Treasury ran smoothly, with its



The Chancellor, Nigel Lawson, in pensive mood (above) and relaxing with his family (left) far from the cares of minding the Exchequer

was also markedly more popular than the Treasury expected.

But there were clouds on the horizon. Pessimists in the City were heard to mutter that Lawson was loosening up on monetary policy, together with weakening oil prices and an ever-stronger dollar, doubts about monetary policy were to undermine the pound from then on. In the political world, Lawson was being attacked from the other side. Policy, it was said, was not too loose, it was too tight - as evidenced by the continuing rise in unemployment.

Caught between the two, Lawson spent a difficult autumn, complicated further by an exceptionally severe public spending struggle. The miners' strike meanwhile debilitated public finances, growth, output and the exchange rate. At the party conference, when Lawson failed to rouse his audience, the party began to mutter.

The party had, of course, muttered long and loud about Sir Geoffrey Howe, as Brittan plunged into its worst postwar recession.

But Sir Geoffrey Howe, even at the very worst, could usually count on some long-standing residual affection in the parliamentary party. Lawson, the newcomer, the journalist, the fast-track outsider, the man who does not obviously display affection for the House of Commons, does not have a similar fund of political capital.

He is also, of course, vulnerable on unemployment. He was part of the Treasury that proved over-optimistic in 1979-81 about the likely increase

HIS LIFE AND
POLITICAL CAREER

Born: 1932
Educated: Westminster and Christ Church, Oxford
1954: 1st class honours Politics, Philosophy and Economics
1961-63: City Editor, Sunday Telegraph
1963-64: Speechwriter to Sir Alec Douglas-Home
1966-70: Editor, Spectator
1970: Contested Eton and Slough for the Conservatives
1974: Elected MP for Blaby
1976: Financial Secretary to the Treasury
1981: Joined the Cabinet as Energy Secretary
1983: Chancellor of the Exchequer

in the dole queue. He rashly ventured an opinion during the 1983 election campaign - while other ministers grimly stuck to waffle - that there was a very good prospect that by next year we will see the start of a fall in unemployment.

There was a brief decline that autumn; without the miners' strike, things might have been a little better in 1984. But the salt of this over-optimism is being rubbed into his wounds today.

And then, of course, there were the two sterling dramas. How much blame for the latest can be shaken off

It is the City's suspicion that he is a touch too clever

on to No 10 and the Prime Minister's Press officer, how much will subsidize with market hysteria, are yet to be established. It certainly raised a question mark over Lawson's future, exacerbated by a bad parliamentary performance on Monday. On Tuesday, however, the parliamentary verdict seemed to be that he had repaired the damage, but a lot is riding on his second Budget.

His first was a hard act to follow. This pre-Budget period is proving particularly stormy, the intervention of the Prime Minister particularly obvious and counter-productive. Yet it would be unwise to assume that Lawson has shot his bolt.

From Mrs Thatcher's point of view, he has the virtue of conviction; he has also the proven attributes of consistency and coherence. Yet he is not inflexible. Indeed, it is the City's suspicion that he is a touch too clever that has brought some of his difficulties on him. He has the energy to proceed with radical tax reform.

For all Nigel Lawson was closely identified with Mrs Thatcher's early policies, he is genuinely a second-term man in a Cabinet that is beginning to look a little dog-eared. He and his second wife, and their two small children, give some semblance of youth to this administration. He displays a certain invigorating cheek, only Nigel Lawson could as Chancellor present a lecture entitled "The British Experiment".

Other legacies of his journalistic days include too-tight suits (the waistcoats are fortunately disappearing), for which he cheerfully pleads the poverty of the politician as an excuse; and a certain robust wit. At the *Sunday Telegraph*, he is said to have coined Lawson's law of large companies: that the height of the chairman is inversely related to his profits. No giant, himself, Lawson may yet attempt to prove his parallel for politicians.

Sarah Hogg

moreover...
Miles Kingdon

My family ties with St Michael

Last weekend I had the strange experience, for the first time in my life, of visiting a place with the same name as me - St Michael in Hertfordshire, but a village near Chippenham called Kingston St Michael, which is the Market & Spices branch. I would have been expected to expect to find traces of ancestors there. In fact, any place with the same name as you is the most unlikely place to provide ancestors, as place-derived surnames are awarded to your forebears when they left the place and arrived somewhere else where they had to be identified.

And sure enough, as I pushed my way through the high-gate of Kingston St Michael, I found a man standing in the middle of a street, looking at me and rambling through the narrow covered graveyard, there was not a Kingston to be seen; only ghosts called Sealy, Wick and Pierey. Inside the church there was rather more life; the white of a high-speed drill came from the NE corner, where a sweating churchwarden was struggling to replace a leaking water-pipe before it rotted everything.

"Hello," he said, glad of the distraction, "would you like to visit the belfry?"

They are very proud of the belfry at Kingston St Michael. In 1799 all the six bells were taken away, returned and rehanging, which was about as strenuous as undertaking as removing the clock of Big Ben to get it cleaned and have it reassured. After climbing a long ladder through left after left, we stood on top of the bells and wondered cautiously if the tower was really strong enough to take the weight of these enormous percussion instruments.

"The tower fell down in 1703," said the warden briskly. "This one is very modern, 1725, so there's no danger."

Remembering Dorothy Sayers's *The Nine Tailors*, in which a man caught in a belfry is rung to death by bells, we clambered down again, soon enough and off the top of the church. Norman arch in nave... 13th century porch... flowers dating from very late 18th... but the quietest thing was the stained glass east window, donated in 1875 by Squire Progers. The panel depicting the text "Surrexerunt filii David" shows Christ receiving children from the spinning image of Mrs Progers, in a broad robe and a head dress, which according to Kilvert's Diary caused intense gossip and indignation at the time.

This I learn from the splendid church history leaflet, which reveals that both Kilvert and John Aubrey, of *Brief Lives* fame, were local lads. Still literary competition this, so we retire to the village pub for a drink. The Jolly Huntsman is a jolly place indeed, full of roaring fire and Sunday drinkers, though the congregation is highly parochial. At the bar I hear a man say: "Now take Marrakesh, which is a typical island Moroccan town."

The Jolly Huntsman, says the church leaflet, is 18th century, restored in 1890. What it doesn't mention is how often it has been changed since. Down the south end, in the easting area, it has been through a Spanish phase with curly wrought iron and little Moorish arches. The nave is predominantly equestrian with horse brasses, a hunting horn and several fox-chasing prints. The south end is, oddly, devoted to the Battle of Waterloo, while the altar or bar itself is currently going through a cocktail phase and is hung with recipes from everything from Pina Colada to Blue Lagoon.

Odd, isn't it, church renovations are meticulously listed while pub alterations are ignored? Yet the archaeological chronology of pubs is just as interesting, we muse, as we are thrown out at closing time and prepare to perambulate Kingston St Michael. *Combe*: soon, I hope, Kingston Langley and West Kingston.

He is possessed of high intelligence and a certain brutish aggression

beginning to sag. The speculation is misplaced. No Chancellor (as Sir Geoffrey Howe or Denis Healey could testify) has been properly blooded until he has heard Press or Parliament baying for his resignation.

Mrs Thatcher is not about to sack a minister so closely identified with her policies, one whose first Budget, indeed, she said displayed "vision and skill of a high order".

But ever since that Budget Lawson has had a rough time, with gloomy news on unemployment and a weak pound. He failed to achieve the essential standing ovation at the last Tory party conference. Now the Chancellor is in Washington with the world's four other top finance ministers, and certainly aware that a false move there could trigger another market panic.

It is not long since Lawson was sitting on the comfortable, journalist's side of the fence. From early on, he was politically committed, sorting out the matchsticks in Sir Alec Douglas-Home's economic speeches in the campaign of 1964.

He had a long struggle to find himself a seat, and was already sufficiently well known for every failure to be noticed, while other would-be politicians hunted on in decent obscurity. In 1974, already in his forties, he was finally elected for Blaby, in Leicestershire.

From then on progress was rapid. He was very much part of the inner circle of economic policy makers that forged Thatcherism between 1974 and 1979. Unlike so many of those who jumped aboard the Thatcher bandwagon, Lawson had some pedigree of opposition to expansionary budget policies. In 1971, he described himself as the traditional odd man out in Bateman cartoons: "The man who booted the Barber Budget".

In 1979 he was given the best of all junior ministers' jobs - Financial Secretary to the Treasury. There he was early seen as a power in the land. "The poor man's Denis Healey" was officials' nickname, touched with a

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Making millions by going to the wall

Osborne and Little are the men who gave conventional wallpaper a pasting. They transformed it from being just something with which to paper over the cracks into an art form. Among the cognoscenti, their partnership is synonymous with the likes of Turnbull & Asser and Fortnum & Mason.

Now, the kitchen-table industry of the 1960s which was started with just £4000, mostly borrowed from family and friends, is about to go public (on February 7) with an expected Stock Exchange rating of between £5 million and £10 million.

Flooding the company they have nurtured since its modest inception was no easy decision for 41-year-old brothers-in-law Peter Osborne and Antony Little. They were well aware of the loss of freedom and increased pressures it would entail. In the end, they decided to follow the successful examples of The Body Shop whose Stock Exchange listings, according to Osborne, gave it "enhanced status and prestige resulting in escalating sales".

In fact, during their comparatively brief professional lifetime, Osborne and Little have already achieved all three. They have papered the walls of the world's aristocratic and elite from the Sultan of Oman to the regenerated Gleneagles Hotel.

Their sales have rocketed from 3000 rolls of wallpaper in 1969 to 385,000 last year, of which exactly one quarter was exported. And, from making a loss of £1,000 in their first year with a turnover of £23,000, the profit for 1984 was £700,000 and the turnover £4 million.

Such glittering achievements are the result of a combination of inspiration and sheer hard work. "There is no such thing as genius," says design director

Little. "There is just pure determination. I used to believe that you either had it or hadn't but now I realize that everything has to be polished again and again. I'm not a natural perfectionist - I have to work hard at it. I did our first range of wallpapers in about a week. Now it takes me between six months and a year to design a collection."

Even so, that first range won the firm a much-coveted award from the Council of Industrial Design.

The story began in 1967 when Little, a printer's son from North Wales who was married to Osborne's sister, was working as a freelance interior designer for 1960s-style companies such as Biba.

Osborne, an Oxford-educated barrister, had spent an excruciatingly boring year as a trainee in a merchant bank and was thinking of opening an antiquarian bookshop.

Little agreed to share the rent with him in order to display the wallpaper designs he was screen-printing on his kitchen table. Realizing that there was a huge gap in the wallpaper market which consisted almost entirely of old-fashioned, mass-produced styles, Little was experimenting with bold avant garde designs.

They rented a converted bookshop in Knightsbridge for £27 a week and hand-printed their designs on reels of photographers' backdrop paper which they cut up and sold for 29 shillings a roll.

The COID award resulted in their first commercial breakthrough when a leading American interior designer ordered 500 pattern books and 50 rolls of wallpaper which took them almost a year to produce. The American, who heads a firm called Clarence House, is still



Brothers in big business: Osborne (standing) and Little

his biggest customer as well as acting as their agent in New York.

The inspiration for their elegant and imaginative designs frequently comes from sources as unlikely as the rotting walls of Sicily which Little discovered on holiday, or yellow lichen on grey Cotswold stone.

Yet, they deliberately ensure that there is no obvious Osborne & Little style. "That way you reach a wider market," says Osborne.

With their Stock Exchange debut, they are now considering going into other areas of home furnishings such as bed linen. But, although they have undoubtedly come a long way from the early days when they did everything themselves from packing the wallpaper to checking its quality, their designs are not to everyone's taste.

Prince Charles, for instance, recently turned down all the Osborne & Little samples selected by his interior designer in favour of something a little more conventional.

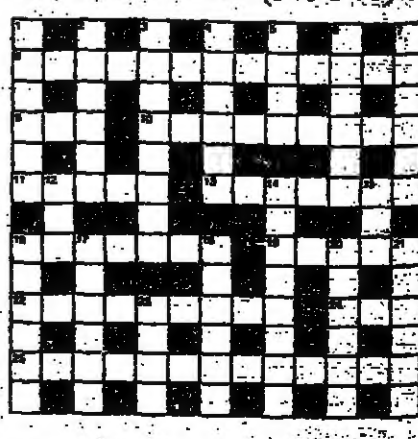
Sally Brompton

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 546)

ACROSS
8 Proportionate (13)
9 Publishers' body (11,11)
10 Diminution (9)
11 Hunker (5)
12 Table top frame (7)
13 Bareheaded (7)
14 Keen (5)
15 Rebuild (9)
16 Canteen (3)
17 Fish stew (13)

DOWN
1 Meagre (6)
2 Leaping antelope (8)
3 Person in custody (8)
4 With oblique glance (6)
5 Family table (4)
6 Craven (6)
7 Health state (6)
8 Epoch (3)
9 Model (3)
10 Sheltered side (3)
11 By means of (6)

SOLUTION TO No 545
ACROSS: 1 Rebar 2 Beaker 3 Tare 4 Vanguard 5 Hopscotch 6 Jolly 7 Tug 8 Transfix 9 Speculant 10 Duke 11 Prime Minister 12 Cranky 13 Decit
DOWN: 1 Rote 2 Marrowing 3 Hovel 4 Banns 5 Ariani 6 Egan 10 Evert 11 Erica 12 Slaps 13 Attributed 14 Lore 15 Spin 16 Pippet 20 Rally 21 Nomad 22 Scan 23 Vent



17 Monotony (6) 20 Gaudy (6)
18 Muslim salutation (6) 21 Sublime (6)
19 By means of (6) 22 Scan (4)

BOOKS

A womb with a man's-eye view

Fiona MacCarthy

THE CAPTURED WOMB
A History of the Medical Care of
Pregnant Women
By Ann Oakley
Blackwell, £17.50

Final plans for the formation of the British College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists were apparently arrived at in the course of a shooting party in the fells of North Lancashire in the early 1920s. The symbolic overtones of this two-knickerbockered scene are not missed by Ann Oakley, who misses very little and who goes on to point out that there were nine squarities to the articles of association and all of them were men.

This is a cool and clever book which will annoy a lot of people, particularly those the Lord did not equip for child-bearing, since the history of medical care of pregnant women is also the exposure of men's unremitting bossiness. (Could it really be, as some psychiatrists suggest, that male obstetricians' zeal is the result of an ungratified childhood curiosity to know where babies come from?) Men's urge to interfere anyway is evident now. Even in the 18th century the most confident manuals of advice for expectant mothers tended to have men as authors. Men such as John Grigg, Charles in Bath and late of His Majesty's Navy, as well as "Practitioner in Midwifery", poor mothers.

Some of these male commentators on female reproduction allowed their scientific detachment to go haywire in, for instance, their colourful and lyrical descriptions of the signs of pregnancy, the reproductive tissues being seen as activated, "proceeding from the male to coitus". Quite so.

One of the things which may well surprise the reader of this carefully argued, hugely interesting survey is that in the 18th and 19th centuries formal antenatal care was almost non-existent. Attitudes to pregnancy were wonderfully casual. Professional diagnosis was very rarely bothered with in Britain until the 19th century, and then only among the upper classes.

In 1834 even the experts were maintaining that the surest way of diagnosing pregnancy was to wait until the term of nine months was complete. Ann Oakley contrasts this period of faith and hope with a modern climate in which Mother

Nature is increasingly mistrusted and the fruits of the womb come under a (mainly male) medical surveillance. The medicalization of pregnancy is an issue with wide implications in relation to the medicalization of life in general and specific relevance to feminism since the fact - a point stressing in its very obviousness - is that only women who get pregnant.

In her account of the past 80 years activity, as male doctors created the profession of obstetrics, she describes a kind of *Boys' Own* world of keenness and adventure. Women's wombs, until then mysterious territory, were explored by means of speculum and endoscope, their contents monitored by ultrasound sound waves, until the obstetricians knew more about the fetus than the prospective mothers did themselves. All this was very stimulating for the doctors, who were easily betrayed into most tactless phraseology.

"There is not much difference after all," claimed Ian Donald, Professor of Midwifery at Glasgow, whose male chauvinistic prose is a red rag to Ms Oakley - "between a focus in utero and a submarine at sea."

The question of why women have by no means all availed themselves of the ante-natal care on offer is a crucial one, and one which has vexed obstetricians and occupied the hours of many medical research units. Ann Oakley finds the reasons altogether obvious. There has been little relation between what doctors have said ante-natal care ought to consist of and the level of care which has actually materialized. Furthermore, no one has seriously thought of asking women what they want (or do not want) from ante-natal care.

This is an academic book, at an academic price, but it is I think in most ways more humane and more convincing than Edward Shorter's recent more overtly popular *History*

of Women's Bodies. (Maybe this says something, though half-way through the book I might have doubted it was possible, in favour of the actual possession of a womb.) The book is unusually well-designed, through all its complex diagrams and tabulations, and the bibliography, a large one, is exemplary, so good it almost makes the text itself a bit superfluous, ranging as it does from *The Strength of Imagination* in *Pregnant Women Examined* (Blondel, 1727) to *Long Distance Telemetry of Fetal Heart Rate from Paternal Homes using Public Telephone Network* (1983, British Medical Journal). There is a dreadful sense in which this seems to say it all.



Pole-axed on the ice: a divine stubbornness

Timothy Garton Ash

A FREEDOM WITHIN
The Prison Notes of Cardinal Wyszyński
Translated by Barbara Krzywicki-Herbert and Walter J. Ziemba
Hodder & Stoughton, £12.95

In September 1953, Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński, the Primate of Poland, was arrested by secret police and imprisoned in a remote monastery. "I had feared that I would never share this honour, which had befallen all my seminary colleagues," Wyszyński notes on the first day of his internment. "They had all experienced concentration camps and prisons." Suddenly and completely cut off from the outside world, guarded by surly secret policemen (one "reminiscent of a Nazi noncom") in bare, freezing quarters, Wyszyński was given a converted priest and nun for company. They were to spend almost three years together, before the Primate returned in triumph to Warsaw in the "Polish October" of 1956.

As a record of their outward life his *Prison Notes* are immediately accessible, touching and inspiring. The solitary and middle-aged Cardinal was obviously a little tried by the sun, who spent much time in the kitchen "where there were very loud conversations and laughter with the housekeeper", as he jots testily. "Because my room was right over the kitchen, I could not help hearing all those noises. I often reminded Sister not to waste her time in conversation but to study and read. Yet together they plainly managed to improve a real religious community, with a regular monastic timetable, intensive prayer, and Masses High and Low. On Easter Sunday, 1955, Wyszyński marks the contrast between the captives "singing and joy", and the grim silence of their captors. "We stopped for a moment at the desk of the guard on duty. We implored him to fight off sorrow, since it was not proper for victors to wear such glum faces. And, we added, everything on earth is resurrecting..." He smiled with antiseptic caution.

The Primate himself emerges as a man of divine stubbornness, losing no chance to explain to his guards how his basic rights have been violated, that this was just like a concentration camp, that "You covered my windows with blotting paper so that people would not see the Primate of Poland; but no one will be able to

shield these windows from the world", and so on, until his gaolers retreat to "consult higher authorities". Yet there is no assurance of earthly victory. Wyszyński's notes are a vivid reminder of how close the Polish Church came to institutional demolition under the double onslaught of Nazism and Stalinism. There was nothing inevitable about its resurrection as the great autonomous institution it is today. In large measure this was Wyszyński's personal achievement, based (as he here records) on a careful historical analysis of the fate of the Churches elsewhere in Eastern Europe, and a fine ethical understanding of the limits of permissible compromise with the powers-that-be. It was the mixture of principled stubbornness and readiness to compromise which made his personal greatness.

Yet the largest part of *A Freedom Within* is neither a contribution to prison literature, nor a slice of political history, but an intimate record of one Christian's spiritual life in a time of trial. The difficulty of reading this spiritual record comes not from the translation, which is very faithful (in all senses), but from the very stuff of the religious experience which it attempts to convey. Someone brought up in the cold light of northern protestantism may just follow him when he talks in prayer to Christ about his enforced poverty. "A week before my arrest you asked me, in such a distinct voice: 'Would you know how to be poor?' I answered then, 'I think so, Christ.' I now answer your question with my daily life." But can we follow him in his passionate, daily conversation with the Virgin Mary, Mary Mother of God and Queen of Poland?

When Irish Is are writing

Fiona MacCarthy

THE CAPTAIN'S
PARAMOURS
By K. Arnold Price
Hamish Hamilton, £2.95
MADE FOR EACH
OTHER
By Virginia Ironside
Hamish Hamilton, £2.95

Irish history is for Englishmen to remember and Irishmen to forget; but when the history of 20th century literature comes under scrutiny by future generations, or little green men, or even critics, it will be seen even more clearly than it is now that the Irish short story in English has a front-desk place among the instruments of fiction. Again and again, in hands more Anglo-Irish than sovereign Irish, on the whole, but always identifiably Irishmen, it demands and deserves a high respect: a means of story-telling as potent as the English novel.

"No-one says that but it is true," K. Arnold Price's stories, all but one set in Ireland, have a wonderful inevitability: that grace achieved, usually, only by writers whose artistic sensibilities, welded to a capacity for relentless work, are held in balance with their determination to conceal both. These dialogues, being almost entirely as the middle-aged calm, reflecting surfaces of deep secrecy barely rippled by nostalgia. You do not have to be Irish to recognise a glimmer of Irish for sentence structure; Irish ears tuned to degrees of social distinction unimagined in clumsy English speech; Irish discretion applied as spilt to fractured sexual morality; and that peculiarly Irish crime, melancholy with violence.

A sequence of seven stories, linked and locked together in ways reminiscent of the most subtle, serious work of Somerset Maugham and Rosset, chart the first-person excursions, observations and slowly drained innocence of a mid-20th century boy growing up, up, and away from roots in Ireland's small, landless gentry and the small-mesh network of neighbourhood.

Eight further stories shake a

lens through patterns in an Ireland which, though modern, is still a very long way from anywhere in all directions. They show marriage in suburban Dublin; a thwarted country courtship; the friendship of two girls, one a butterfly, the other a quiet and conscientious and the last, involving one and many, the other "felt the blessed assurance of a long life with her in which she would be a loving faithful wife and he a loving faithful husband."

Selegis in a fashion boutique, confident in their chatter, narcissistic nest, find themselves uncomfortable with even demoralized by a cuckoo colleague, quiet, but classy. "Like a good ball every tale had its convincing, circumstantial plan, and a due share of elliptical dialogue. The listener's intelligent participation was assumed." (It is not often in this column that an author seems actually to anticipate the reviewer.) Everywhere the tone is gentle, the glance sidelong, the humour poised on a high wire of terror.

These stories have their own "achieved" maturity, an achieved equilibrium, as impressive as the imperishable, unhurried adult characters and characteristics used to highlight

youth, instability, and confusion. Mrs Mandy, whose shop sells socks, or a new bucket, or pearls - "everything the dwellers in the village or the townland might need" - has "a voice always so quiet that it did not break the silence." So has K. Arnold Price.

Fearfully, Virginia Ironside grabs death, and grief, and sex, and love by the scruff of their respective necks in a recklessly ambitious, crudely unpolished move to make those four superpowers sit down in a novel and sign a treaty of mutual cooperation called *Made For Each Other*. For want of negotiating finesse rather than intensity of purpose, the attempt fails. That is a pity: better jaw, jaw than war, war, but we should not despair, still less call upon Miss Ironside to resign in disgrace.

She has perceived that magnetic attraction and magnetic affinity, which are not the same thing, in chemistry, are not the same thing in the chemistry of human response, either. This first-person account of Viola Everet coming to terms, more or less, with that discovery, in the course of an affair embarked upon partly to short-circuit the process of mourning for her dead mother, partly to exorcise the spirit of a mother as much loved as loathed, partly in childish defiance of both, shows the writer's skill in giving no cause for alarm or dependency.

The problem, ignored at our peril and to the peril of the novel, is that death, and grief, and sex, and love are more than powerfully human. They share a superhuman common denominator: mystery. In a narrative which leaves so little - so very little - sexual activity to imagination, there is not much mystery to start with, and not enough - not nearly enough - to go round.

O Yes, the Führer knew all about it

Philip Howard

HITLER AND THE FINAL SOLUTION
By Gerald Fleming
Hamish Hamilton, £12.95

This book demonstrates in laborious and painful detail that from the beginning Hitler wanted to exterminate the Jews of Europe. This might seem to the plain man as much of a work of supererogation as demonstrating that a black mamba is venomous. It is necessary because the revisionist "functionalist" school of German historians, echoed by David Irving in this country, have been arguing that the Nazis stumbled into genocide by accident rather than by design. It is easier for these simple souls to believe in cock-up than demonic conspiracy.

These black and secret matters are difficult to prove by documents. The Führer used code (see *Sprachregelung*) to communicate delicate matters to his closest colleagues, in a masterpiece of camouflage that they enjoyed like wicked schoolboys. But we know that execution and extermination were euphemisms. "Disinfection" meant gassing. And "on orders from the highest level" or on the highest orders meant You Know Who.

The Reader is German at the University of Surrey has assembled the documentary and



oral evidence for the prosecution with remarkable diligence, from sources as impenetrable as the Russian archives at Riga. He writes like cold sweat.

His text is repetition, full of undigested quotation, and manages like the Nazis to dress horror in bureaucratic banality. But he is not in business to give us an elegant read. He proves beyond reasonable doubt that Hitler knew jolly well what was going on; that he planned it from the start; and that at some time in the spring or summer of 1941 he gave an oral order for the Final Solution to be put into effect. It needs to be put on the record, because only by convicting the beast in men can we hope to stop it happening again.

This is the second volume of George F. Kennan's three-part study of the Franco-Russian alliance from its making in the early 1890s to its collapse with the Russian revolution. The book demonstrates with complete authority the central paradox of what Kennan calls "an alliance of historic significance, destined to play an important part in determining the alignment of forces in the First World War."

The paradox lay in the flimsy, secretive nature of the alliance, just a military convention confirmed by the two governments, which yet committed the partners to automatic mobilization if Germany, Austria or Italy began to mobilize either singly or collectively. When the Franco-Russian agreement became intertwined with the Balkan rivalries of the great powers it led to the events of August 1914.

Initially, Kennan brings out the formal reasons which drew Paris and St Petersburg together in the early 1890s. The French saw a Russian alliance as a means of inflicting a salutary defeat on Germany. The Russians envisaged the agreement as a way of keeping

Historian of the old order's demise

David Rees

THE FATEFUL ALLIANCE
France, Russia and the Coming of the First World War
By George F. Kennan
Manchester University, £13

Germany off their backs "while they settled scores with the Austrians and the British."

But the real prime mover of this strange alliance was the enigmatic figure of the Tsar Alexander III. By 1890 the Tsar's long-standing dislike of German influence in his empire had congealed into a belief that a Franco-Russian victory over Germany would mean the disappearance of the Bismarckian empire... "It would break up into a number of small weak states, the way it

used to be." According to the Russian foreign minister, Giers, the Tsar assumed that "when he has taken care of the great Germany, he will be master of the world."

Kennan notes that the shift in Russian policy from an understanding with Germany to an actual alliance with France was already apparent by the summer of 1891. When a French naval squadron visited Cronstadt in July the "general social and political frenzy" was such as the city of Petersburg had never seen and would never see again. "The climax of the festivities was reached at a huge gala dinner given by the Tsar at his summer palace at Peterhof. Here Alexander III 'electrified' Europe by standing bare-headed while the orchestra played the Marseillaise, the marching song... of those who a hundred years before had beheaded a king."

All this gave some political sanction for the military con-

vention, negotiated in secrecy, which was signed in August 1892 and confirmed by the two governments some sixteen months later. But the Tsar's wish for an alliance with France against Germany was no isolated assertion of the imperial will. It was Alexander III who inspired the construction of the Trans-Siberian railway as a means of asserting Russian influence in the Far East. Yet this massive diversion of Russian resources to the East culminated in the Russo-Japanese war, "a disaster from which the value of Russia, as an alliance partner for France, was never fully to recover."

Kennan writes that formerly the dynastic wars of the European powers had been fought for limited objectives. But the military thinking behind the Franco-Russian alliance called for total war for total victory, a twentieth century concept. Such precepts were literally fatal for the Russian autocracy; the eventual showdown based on these ideas initiated the era in which we still live. Hence Kennan's study is a classic case-history of the old order of European diplomacy as it approaches its dissolution.

Sermons in stones

Gontran Goulden

THE ARCHITECTURE OF THE ITALIAN RENAISSANCE
By Jacob Burkhardt
Edited by Peter Murray
Sackler & Warburg, £30

fascinating, not as a narrative, but in the succulent tit-bits to be picked from the bones of Burkhardt's scholarship. For example: in a reference to Palladio on the design of staircases... "The tread should extend at least a foot, at the most one and a half feet, after eleven or thirteen steps (the number must be odd, so that one begins and ends on the right foot) a rest should be introduced." On Roman patronage: "The speediest nephew of Pope Pius II introduced the earliest known ventilating system at a princely reception in his palace - admittedly a merely temporary device with bel-

lows." Swiss born and German trained Jacob Burkhardt (1818-1897) laid down solid foundations for his Italian Renaissance art, but was not able to build on them. It had been his intention to fill in the gaps in the greatest work *The Civilization of the Italian Renaissance* (first published in 1860, first English edition 1878) with volumes on the art of the Renaissance. But this was not to be. He appears to have read so much in the primary and secondary sources on Italian architecture then available that he was not able to produce more than the bones in note form.

New editions and reprints of Burkhardt's work have continued up to 1932. Now Professor Murray has edited, corrected and added to this English edition of his *Italian Renaissance Architecture*. Reading it is still hard work.

Whither, O neglected old poet?

David Cecil

THE SELECTED LETTERS OF ROBERT BRIDGES
Edited by Donald E. Stanford
Associated University Press, £42.95

his feeling for landscape; no other of our poets describe the English scene quite as he does and few as well. Generally it is the rural scene; but a poem like "London Snow" shows his urban pictures as equally unforgettable.

The sentiment of Bridges' poetry is also very much his own. Sad or happy, light or serious, it is marked by a noble, unselfish acceptance of what fate has brought him, which give it an unusual, unmistakable individuality. All the same, Bridges was right not to think his actual outlook original. His achievement rather is that with an art exquisitely unobtrusive he expresses feelings shared by many. His words simply strike one as the right words: only on

reflection does one realise that they are words no one else would have chosen.

Pleasure in his poetry leads naturally to an interest in the man who wrote it. Up till now we have not been able to learn much about Bridges: he did not approve of such questions and took pains to see they got no answers. This was because he thought the questioner had no right to ask them not because he had anything to hide. To know what he was like therefore we must turn to those who remember him. Those accounts depict him as an impressive personality, and of an unexpected kind. The author of these reticent, subtle poems was a grand bearded figure, magnificently handsome in a rugged style.

His letters, in two stout volumes, might be expected to help us to know the man more intimately. But most of the letters are no more than brief communications about practical and impersonal matters, unilluminated by confidences, let alone by confessions. The result is that, though these volumes, admirably edited by Professor Stanford, will be essential reading for any future scholar studying Bridges, the general reader will still be content to look for the man in his poems. But perhaps this is the wisest course to take with any poet whose words are worth reading.

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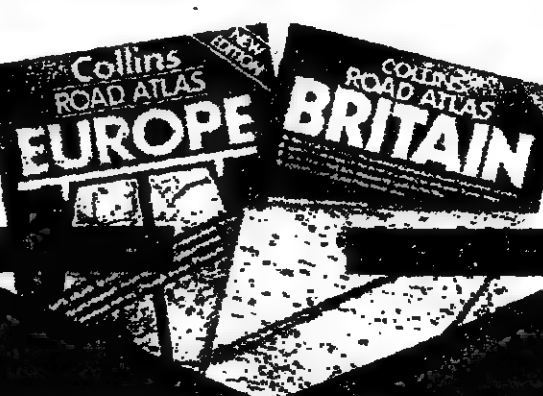
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TRA

THE TIMES DIARY

Surprise party

With applications for the post of general secretary due by tomorrow, Labour party headquarters are again awash with rumour, intrigue and manipulation. At the eleventh hour, Roy Hattersley and the forces of the right have persuaded Post Office Engineers leader Brian Stanley to throw his hat in the ring. Alex Ferry, right-wing leader of the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, has meanwhile decided not to stand, realizing he cannot win. The application of General Municipal, Boilermakers and Allied Trades Union research officer Larry Whitty is expected at Walworth Road today. Scottish secretary Helen Liddell filled out her forms on Tuesday. After a call yesterday from his backer Ken Livingstone, who has been canvassing the left, Peter Hain has dropped out. Neil Kinnock's new technology adviser, Alan Thomas, has also withdrawn, standing in his place is the more overtly political ASTMS national negotiator Roger Ward, who has been working with Thomas on computerising Walworth Road. Rumours also abound of approaches from "a mystery businessman". There's still time to join the fun. In 1982 Jim Mortimer, the outgoing general secretary, decided to stand with only 36 hours to go.

Readers discerning a suddenly sharpened focus in *Belfast Telegraph* leaders might put it down to New Year staff redeployments: the leader writing team now comprises Messrs White, Black and White. They have to clear their expenses through a Mr Grey.

Moor means less

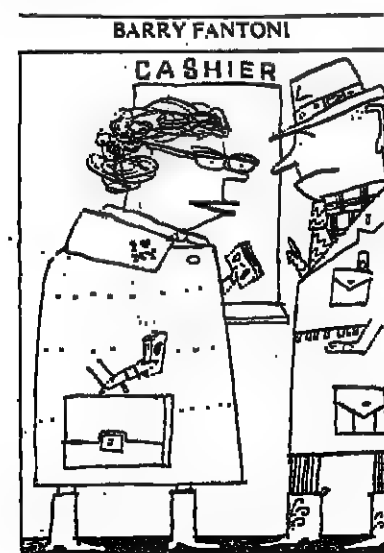
Cornwall County Council may be about to return unopened a gift from Prince Charles. To celebrate the birth of his second son, the Prince in his capacity as Duke of the Duchy of Cornwall presented the council with Kit Hill on Bodmin Moor. Councilors were appropriately moved by his generosity until they learnt that the hill needs £37,000 spent immediately on scrub clearing and fencing, and will cost £12,000 a year to keep up. "What gets us my nose", exploded Liberal councillor John Scannell, "is that the Duchy retains the mineral rights."

Upshot

The plummeting pound seems to have escaped the Prime Minister's notice. To Liberal MP David Alton, concerned that each cent fall adds £40m to the cost of Trident, she wrote on Tuesday that the weapons would cost £8.7bn. She quotes an exchange rate for the pound of \$1.53.

Many questions

Tories on the Foreign Affairs Select Committee who were keen to conclude its all-too-revealing investigation into the Belgrano sinking have been outmanoeuvred. Labour members of the committee yesterday put down a formal motion asking for further questions to be sent to Mrs Thatcher. Lord Lewin, Michael Heseltine and others about inconsistencies in evidence. Had the Tories opposed the motion it would have to have been recorded in the final report and they would have been vulnerable to accusations of blocking the investigation of legitimate issues. Thus prolonged, the investigations may now have to consider a whole new can of worms: evidence thrown up at the Ponting trial later this month.



BARRY FANTONI

Iron to gilts

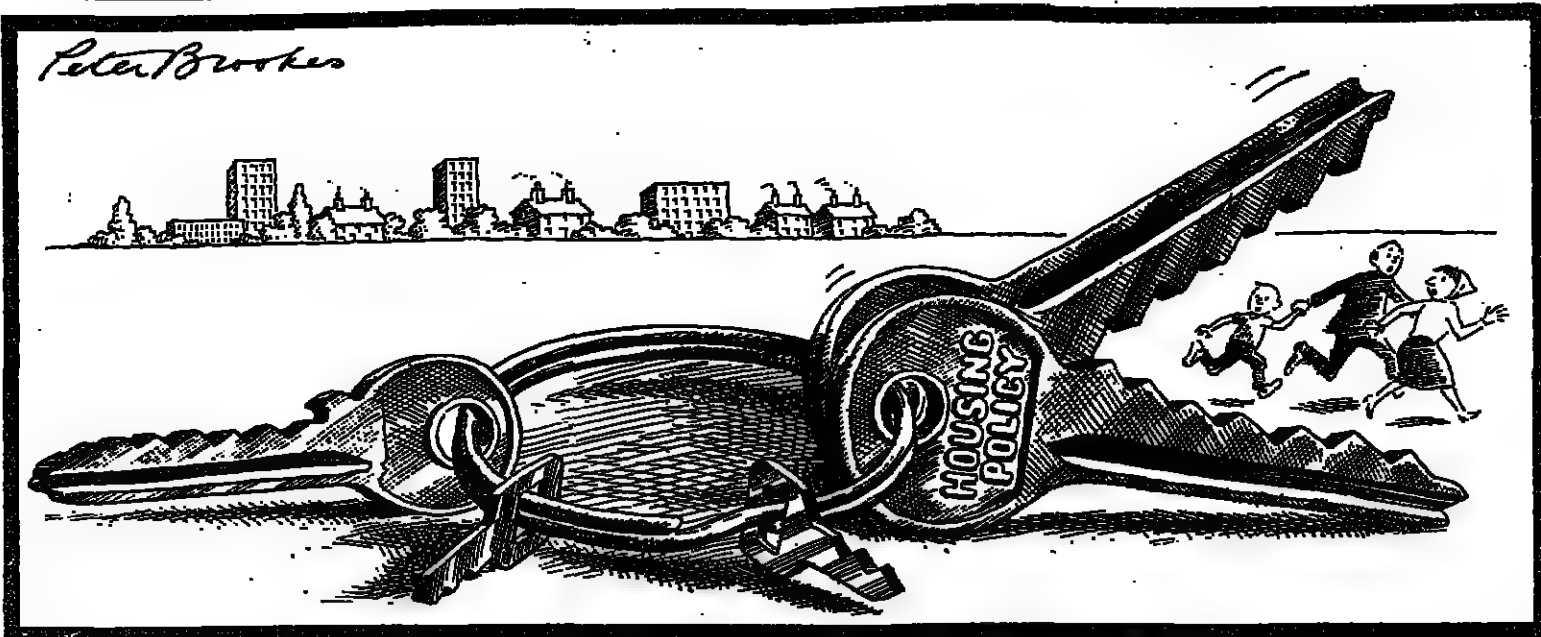
While the Duchess of Bedford still has her *Times* ironed every morning I hear that her son, Didier Milinaire, manager of Burkes, has begun a new tradition. His secretary's first task each morning is to post *The Times* portfolio numbers on the notice board for the convenience of the club's members.

Indian summer

President Reagan is doubtless chuffed that India's new Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, has agreed to visit the US in June. He should temper his delight, however. Diplomatic sources tell me that Moscow has beaten Washington to the post and that Gandhi is to visit the Soviet capital in April. The reason Moscow has not trumpeted the news is the usual one: no one knows if President Chernenko will be well enough to receive him.

PHS

Neil McIntosh points to a ready-made basis for more and better housing



Britain's housing stock is deteriorating and housing investment is appallingly low. Yet somehow the Government has not suffered as a result of its housing failures. Indeed, it sees housing policy as a vote winner. The reasons are many, but at least one is that the Government's opponents fight with one hand tied behind their backs.

The Government's performance has been woeful not because it wants to see a switch from public to private investment in housing but because it has failed to create the conditions in which that can happen. Conversely the arguments of many Government critics have been weakened by insistence that salvation can only come through state investment in largely state-managed housing. This has the added result of creating a sterile debate in which every initiative, labelled either "public" or "private", meets with strong opposition. Since continuity is a prerequisite to attracting new private investment, no progress is made.

People on low, variable incomes need to rent. Home ownership is unlikely to be available to them, particularly in the high-cost south. But rented accommodation, a form of tenure which ought to combine easy access and mobility, has been made less convenient, more expensive and more difficult to find.

This is partly explained by tendencies of successive governments to heap on themselves more and more financial privileges. Systems of tenure cannot exist in isolation and every new government inducement to buy a house makes renting one less attractive. But pressure on the private rented sector has also meant that renting has become almost synonymous with squalor.

Television can cross borders, but should it be able to do so? The European business community is beginning to apply pressure to free the barriers which currently prevent some television material, principally advertising, from crossing national boundaries.

These restrictions are dizzyingly arbitrary. Italy forbids television advertisements for pet foods or boats. France will not tolerate commercials for margarine or the press. Britain, through the Independent Broadcasting Authority, keeps marriage brokers, undertakers and a number of "unacceptable products" off the screen. Belgium and Denmark ban advertising altogether.

The EEC Commission in Brussels wants to iron out these differences. It would like to develop a common market in television and end practices such as Belgium's of trying to force cable television operators to black out commercials shown on programmes taken from other countries. In time, the commission hopes, pan-European channels would develop, creating not only a wider market for EEC goods but also a new European identity.

The commission's aim is to establish a common code. A total ban on tobacco advertising would probably be included, along with a partial ban on some forms of advertising alcohol. But all member governments except Luxembourg oppose such a code.

But no new action by the EEC may be needed to remove many products and services from such blacklists. In a legal opinion prepared by two British barristers,

Bias that keeps people from the door

council housing. This causes quite different problems for tenants, as recent experience in Liverpool demonstrates.

When the Militant-led council took over Liverpool in 1983, one of its first actions was to reject a number of tenants' cooperatives in favour of old-style municipal housing. Those working-class communities were being told in essence that the council would not allow them to use their collective energies and abilities to improve their circumstances, lest they steal a march over even less well-off people. All tenants were to be reduced to the lowest common denominator and would then have to rely on the city council to improve conditions.

Many Labour councils would still contend that the injection of adequate public funds would ensure that there was enough housing to go round, and that the unpleasantly bureaucratic aspects of council housing would disappear.

But assuming the vast sums required were made available, places such as Liverpool demonstrate the weakness in this argument. Even where there is enough housing there will still be queues because nobody wants to be left in the worst council stock.

The rejection of private investment in housing helps no one — least of all the homeless. Tenants are not interested in whether funds to build and improve their homes come from the state or the private sector. They are interested only in a good service — and the level of rent.

The traditional assumption has been that private landlords do not provide a good service. But the description "private landlord" could mean any of four things: resident landlords, small commercial landlords, commercial institutions or non-profit-making private bodies such as housing associations.

Resident landlords operate largely outside the Rent Act and should continue to do so. The relationship between landlord and lodger/tenant is a personal one and any move to suggest otherwise would simply discourage such letting. A simple, inexpensive and sure way of regaining possession is regrettably the only way of retaining this useful although marginal source of accommodation.

Small commercial landlords should not play a large part in our future housing plans. Their management record is poor but the main argument against them, in a situation where consensus is impor-

ant, is that the public image typified by Rachman rules them out, however unfairly in many cases.

As long as institutions, profit-making or otherwise, are willing to be policed in some way, the element of competition which a new type of commercial landlord could provide would be worth encouraging. But housing associations already provide a fully operational, largely non-controversial network capable of managing housing. At their best, they demonstrate the nonsense of assuming that public or collective enterprise must be the prerogative of the state. All they need is to be weaned away from their present complete dependence on public funds.

At present the associations are largely funded by the Housing Corporation's £700m budget. That money could become the bedrock that could persuade private institutions to put their risk capital into rented housing. If Housing Corporation funds could be thus multiplied, the existing council sector, much of which desperately needs investment, could then be improved.

Some of these suggestions have been proposed within the Department of the Environment. The Treasury has responded coolly, largely because it is obsessed with the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement, and it is also reported to have cited the difficulty of getting sufficient bipartisan agreement.

It is true there are those for whom no investment is preferable to private investment. We can no longer afford to let those negative voices prevail.

The author is a former director of Shelter.

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Free speech for the hard sell

Tomorrow the business world discusses

EEC plans for 'television without frontiers'

Brenda Maddox outlines the arguments

Article 10 of the European Convention on Human Rights — signed by Britain and 17 other countries — gives grounds for striking down many of the restrictions on freedom of expression.

This guarantee, in the opinion of Anthony Lester, QC and David Pannick, a Fellow of All Souls, covers statements made through the media involving commercial transactions in other words, advertising. "In western democracies with market economies," they argue, "the free flow of such information is vital to the ability of consumers to make informed decisions about the various products and services available to them."

There is nothing obscure in the wording of Article 10. It states clearly that the only restrictions that may be placed on freedom of expression are narrow and specific: those necessary for the protection of national security, health, morals, the reputation of others or of information received in confidence. These do not seem to leave room for all the grounds on which most EEC countries restrict their commercials, such as a wish to protect cultural

integrity, the stability of public-service broadcasting, the financial viability of the press, or simply the old media against the new.

Deciding whether or not individual rights under the Convention have been violated by national laws is the job of the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg. If this court continues to broaden its interpretation of Article 10, and strike down excessive restrictions on freedom of speech, as it did when it upheld *The Sunday Times* against the British government in the thalidomide case, then it may not be long before restrictions on commercials are challenged. Britain could once again find itself in the dock.

There are signs, however, that freedom of commercial speech in Europe may be an idea whose time has come. One was a decision last June by the US Supreme Court that the State of Oklahoma could not require cable systems to block out commercials for wine on the television programme they carried from outside the state. The Federal Communications Commission rule requiring the unimpeded flow of information between the states, the court ruled, took precedence over Oklahoma's law banning advertisements for alcohol. This opinion, although American, will have an impact on the EEC, which is trying to develop laws on federal-state relations.

Another encouraging sign is the growth of cable and satellite technologies. Television which crosses national boundaries is on the increase and attempts to isolate viewers are increasingly futile.

Above all, the demand for freedom of information and expression is gaining ground. It will not be stopped and, when frustrated, will increasingly turn to the European courts for relief. There are two such cases pending. The Court of Human Rights is to decide soon whether or not a West German veterinarian's rights to free expression were violated when a professional body penalized him for publishing his clinic in a newspaper interview.

The second, at the EEC Court of Justice in Luxembourg, will soon decide whether French law can force French filmmakers to withhold their products from video cassettes for a full year while cinemas have a chance to show them.

If both are resolved with reference to Article 10 it will be a sharper instrument than ever before and well on its way towards becoming Europe's long-overdue approximation of America's First Amendment. Many restrictions on the press and free speech (even if the speaker is a civil servant) could then begin to fall away.

This evolution of Article 10, in step with a new multiplicity of television channels, is in my view the most exciting development in communications today.

The author is editor of Connections, communications newsletter of The Economist.

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Bhopal: was cyanide the culprit?

Bhopal

To the casual eye Bhopal seems to have returned to normal after experiencing the world's worst ever industrial disaster. A reasonably pretty town set around two lakes on an archipelago of low hills, it was a former princely capital, whose royal family is presently headed by the crackling Nawab of Pataudi.

But while the town, the state of Madhya Pradesh, and India itself seem to be absorbing the horror inflicted on December 3 new information with far-reaching implications is beginning to emerge.

It is now becoming clear that those who died in their sleep, or gasping for breath, soon after the incident, died of cyanide poisoning. Other explanations had inconsistencies which were difficult to explain. It was suggested that the escaping gas, methyl isocyanate, was so caustic that it simply corroded the lung linings of those affected, who would then have died from lack of oxygen as their lungs filled with fluid in a process known as chemical pneumonia or pulmonary oedema.

But this theory does not explain why so many people died so quickly. Pulmonary oedema takes hours to develop. Some doctors say it will not show up for eight hours, and it may not kill for 24. The symptomatic treatment given by doctors all over Bhopal that night and on subsequent days was adequate to combat this threat. By giving doses of cortisone

to repair lung tissues and anti-bodies to fend off infection they saved many thousands of lives.

Information now emerging about the post mortem examination of more than 700 victims raises further doubts. If someone dies of lack of oxygen — anoxia — the blood and tissues take on a distinctly blue tinge. But as Professor Hresh Chandra, head of forensic medicine at Bhopal's Gandhi Medical College, told a recent meeting of the Indian Medical Association, the victims were a cherry-red colour.

The professor's findings were paralleled by those of the Indian Council for Agricultural Research, which noted that affected farm animals also gave cherry red blood samples. This colour can come from carbon monoxide poisoning, unlikely in the open air as carbon monoxide kills in enclosed spaces. It can also come from cyanide poisoning. In order to prove that it was cyanide that killed the Bhopal

victims it will be necessary to show how they came into contact with it.

According to evidence from an American scientist given much currency by the factory owners, Union Carbide, methyl isocyanate is distinct from cyanide and is not absorbed into the blood. It is admitted, however, that this has been experimentally tested only outside the body.

According to *The Handbook of Emergency Toxicology* by Dr Sidney Kaye, the organic group of thiocyanates are much more toxic than the inorganic group, and methyl thiocyanate is the most toxic of all. The book suggests that the organic thiocyanates probably convert to cyanide inside the body, and urges treatment for those poisoned by them "as for cyanide".

There is a further suggestion made by scientists in Bhopal, which will again need experimental testing. It has already been disclosed by the head of India's Council for Indus-

trial and Scientific Research that the disaster was triggered by water somehow entering the tanks where methyl isocyanate was stored. This produced heat of such a temperature that water sprayed on the tanks turned instantly to steam, and their concrete cladding was shattered by the increase in temperature, allowing the gas to escape.

Such heat could also have reached a temperature at which the methyl isocyanate breaks up into its constituent parts. When the tanks blew up, they could have sprayed a huge umbrella of pure hydrocyanic acid over the sleeping citizens, which would have been inhaled simply as cyanide.

If the only threat from methyl isocyanate is a corrosive effect, then inundation is relatively easy to survive — wet towels, damp sprays, staying indoors, and inactivity all help; corrosion of the corneas of victims' eyes, for example, has soon been cured.

But if the gas has reacted inside the body, then long-term effects could be considerable. And if residents are to be subjected to the hazards of one of the deadliest and quickest-acting poisons known, a vast new array of controls will be needed.

In the words of one of the medical experts now in Bhopal: "If methyl isocyanate is not absorbed in the blood, why did they die?"

Michael Hamlyn

Ronald Butt

Mr Lawson's real mistake

The case against Mr Nigel Lawson is not that he was wrong to approve the sharp rise in interest rates. It is that he took unjustified risks by gambling against all the market signs on avoiding any rise at all. Before the publication of the most recent money supply figures, there were already clear indications that a rise in interest was being signalled in the money markets.

There was also, however, a strong suspicion (though the authorities deny it) that the Bank of England, under Treasury inspiration, was throwing its weight against a rise in the belief that, when the money supply figures were published, the pressure for higher interest would subside because the money supply figures would be better than was generally expected.

They were, but confidence was not restored by their publication nor later by the first interest rate rise last week. The government either had to accept a quite extraordinarily steep plunge in the pound, with its inflationary consequences, or try to intervene against it by uselessly spending reserves, or accept the logic of the market and a still higher rate of interest. It rightly did the last. Furthermore, it was now vital to make it quite clear that the Chancellor was acting without reluctance and was not hoping to fly in the face of financial realities in order to nudge interest rates down for political purposes. Mr Lawson therefore also invoked the reserve precaution of reactivating minimum lending rate.

Yet the need for this gesture and the continuing fragility of the market's reassurance after it are the best evidence we have of the essential nature of Mr Lawson's miscalculation. With his disdainful attitude towards public reactions, the Chancellor had failed to present his policy convincingly and had also conveyed the impression of unwillingness to put the problems under close scrutiny in the hope that they would go away.

In theory, of course, the policy was simple and comprehensible. The government would use interest rates if the money supply or other domestic factors indicated that this was necessary to contain inflation, but would not encourage interest rate increases as a response to strictly external pressures, of which the pressure of the dollar on all currencies is the most formidable. This did not mean that it was prepared to see the pound drop to any level because of the strength of the dollar. It was rather a reflection of the government's confidence that the state of the economy was essentially sound enough to ensure that the fall would not be unstoppable, but would rather be self-correcting.

The money supply was not out of hand; the growth prospect for the coming year was promising at 3 per cent, and even if productivity is less here than among our principal competitors it is much improved. Why should the markets not take these points?

That the Chancellor should be so confident that the markets would see things his way without more persuasive explanation of the government's thinking, and his failure to respond more sensitively to the evident signs that their suspicions were getting out of hand are surprising in a former financial journalist. He should have been aware of what people were thinking and saying and of their suspicions and how should have acted sooner

to counteract them. There was, for instance, the suspicion that Mr Lawson wanted a cheaper pound because the resulting increase in oil revenues would help him to cut taxes.

By some quite illogical twist of thinking, moreover, the government's unwillingness to support the pound by spending its reserves somehow became translated into the idea that it would not support it by using interest rates. Again the perfectly sensible position that the government has no fixed level in its mind at which it will defend the pound (how could it have, without restoring exchange controls?) was transmuted into the idea that there was no level at which the government would support the pound.

Those whose job it is to move money around the world (as Mr Lawson himself put it in the Commons on Tuesday) to play safe and they have not been deaf to the talk of more public spending in a country where inflation is still at 5 per cent. He might have added, and no doubt he thought, that the market was probably all the more inclined to take this seriously because it is increasingly being heard from Conservatives. Besides, money supply anxieties were not likely to be allayed by one month's figures and, as the Chancellor has himself admitted in the Commons, there was a feeling that the government might have lost its willingness to maintain its anti-inflation policy.

But whose fault was that? If there was a misapprehension, it was the Chancellor's job to see that it was removed before there was real trouble. The truth is that the markets have been quick to see to the heart of the government's dilemma, which is this. In the last Parliament, the government won support for its anti-inflation policies because it believed that in this Parliament the conquest of the worst of inflation would bring recovery and a fall in unemployment.

Now we have growth, but unemployment remains intractable and if the Chancellor can resist the call for more public spending this evokes he must at least maintain the stimulus of tax cuts. Instinctively the markets also understand that if a precipitously cheapened pound is inflationary, high interest rates may menace the growth which is a political imperative for the government. It is small wonder that the suspicion grew that a Chancellor so keen to bring down the rate of interest down might fear in any circumstances to put it up.

There is now no official rationale for explaining that higher interest will not imperil growth. Interest rates went up last July but improved growth was not checked. Bringing interest down is said to be less important than it was a few years ago because companies are now much more profitable. Yet nobody can seriously doubt that the Government has been caught in a pincer between the pressures on the pound from the US, which makes defence through an interest rate increase necessary and the political need to prevent the level of interest from damaging recovery. In such an awkward tactical situation it was essential that the government should make its priorities clear. The Chancellor's basic policies have not been wrong but he has made their pursuit more difficult by failing to make his thinking clear quickly enough, and expecting the markets to read the facts to suit his way of thinking.

John P. Harris

Sour, weak whine of the region

Somewhere in Languedoc Good news for hoarse protesters: if you feel like a sojourner in the sun there may be a home for you down in this part of the south of France where the wine flows freely.

We have a local Protester. Officially he's a *viticulleur*, or grape-grower, but he has only a tiny vineyard producing a small output of poorish wine. Protesting, usually called *manifesting* here, takes up most of his time.

He started off as a plonk-manifester and that is still his main manifestation, with recent diversions. He and his boys want the region to carry on producing lakes-full of sour weak wine, for two overt reasons. One, they claim that you can make as much money from surplus wine, withdrawn from the market to be thrown away, as you can from good wine. Two, it's good for you and anyone who says it isn't is a vile reactionary who ought to be made to drink it. The covert reason is that contented people don't make revolutions or do much manifesting: *viticulleurs* with thousands of gallons of unwanted wine in their hands are not contented but miserable.

The Protester first hit the news some years ago, when a wine-tanker bringing recent Italian wine tied up at the port of Sète. Before it could be off, the tanker was hit by a bomb, pumped ashore to give a bit of body to the unsaleable stuff, the Protester and the boys were on board, manifesting by fouling the wine with diesel oil. The authorities let him alone, and he kept to fame.

He has met the president, distributed aerosol paint-cans, and created Manifesters have derailed trains, blocked motorways, sabotaged wine-vats, captured opposition wine-tankers on the roads and poured their contents into the ditch, manifested at Strasbourg and Brussels and other places where people try to think what to do with the surplus wine, and obliterated sign-posts to annoy tourists.

There's plenty to protest about. Not long ago I was taken to task as a Briton, on the grounds that the natives in Dublin and Limerick are

groaning under my jackboot, forbidden to leave their beleaguered isle, their books censored by Mrs Thatcher, their priests driven underground, their mother tongue banned.

The boys are all for the mother tongue. Older locals here can speak what they call *le patois* as well as French. It's other name is Occitan, a pleasant language. The manifesters can't speak it at all well, but they study the grammar and compose songs in it: protest songs, about how miserable everybody is. An able non-manifesting singer recently gave a concert in this language in our village square of his own songs. Afterwards an old village lady said to me: "Oh, wasn't it nice! So cheerful, not a bit like those awful Occitan people!"

The Protester has just been reported in the local press, saying that Spanish Basque separatists would receive a warm welcome down here from him and his boys. "Our decision," said he, "is Occitan: it is a logical consequence of our meetings with the Basques of Spain, the Piedmontese of Italy, and the Peloponnesians of Greece..." I didn't know about the Piedmontese or the Peloponnesians, but there's always something to manifest about if you're keen.

Diggers-up of dual corpses, poisoners of chocolate bars, think of Independent Rutland, Free Dorset, Autonomous Cayley Reawaken, ye oppressed Scots, Welsh, Cornish and Bretons, practice your rudeness drill! When you have won your spurs and appeared on TV, come down here for a holiday. It sounds as though it's free.

It's true that the Protester wants you mustn't go in for any political or trade union activity, not perhaps that's just for the record, and you can always keep your head in by felling a plane tree to block a road. Don't let me up anyone off the Languedoc. It's jolly nice down here, there are really very few local manifesters, and normally one never notices them except for the graffiti. And those do get cleaned off.

LAURENCE



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REGIME ON TRIAL

It is too soon to say whether the trial of the killers of Father Popieluszko will end as a "cover-up", but even if it does, the facts that have been uncovered in the course of the cover-up repay close attention. The testimony of the four accused has been confused, contradictory and incomplete - under Polish law they are not obliged to answer any questions, and they are not under oath. None the less, they have painted a chillingly convincing picture of the world of the secret police in a Communist state.

In some respect this recalls nothing more than a Mafia "single family". Indeed, it appears that there is a family tradition in the Polish security services, with son following father into the profession. The police "family" looks after its own. Special passes give secret policemen, like Fr Popieluszko's killers, immunity from all the usual regulations. They hold themselves above the law. Corruption is rife, as in the Mafia. The defendants have reported conversations about the possibilities of framing, blackmail and kidnapping, as if these were the everyday stuff of police business.

With police like this, who needs gangsters? As in Mafia trials, the question most unlikely to be answered is: who is the Godfather?

If the Communist system was working as it is meant to work, then the Godfather should be a top party leader. But in Poland over the past few years, the Communist system has not been working as it is meant to be. The imposition of martial law was proof of this. Subsequently, the general level of state violence has sharply increased. According to the independent Helsinki Committee, more than fifty people have died as a result of police violence since December 1981. A properly functioning totalitarian regime, like neighbouring Czechoslovakia, does not have to resort to such Latin American methods; it has an adequate array of less crude instruments of coercion. General Jaruzelski has relied on physical coercion more directly than his predecessors.

Yet he has probably endeavoured to reduce this reliance, and to do so by negotiating with the Church. The more he can depend on the Church to appeal for calm, the less he needs to

depend on tear gas and baton charges. Primate Glemp has been prepared to go some way down this political road with the General but he has exacted a price. The Church is stronger than it has been at any time since the war, and many clergymen feel, like Father Popieluszko, that they have a moral duty to use this strength to sustain the values of Solidarity.

What has emerged most clearly from the courtroom over the last fortnight is the fury of the whole Fourth Department of the Interior Ministry - a department devoted to controlling and combating the Church - at not being able to act against these so-called radical priests. In their diatribes against the Church, the defendants, all of the Fourth Department, spoke with genuine hatred. It is a sobering thought that one of them was responsible for security arrangements during the Pope's visit in 1983. If Gen. Jaruzelski is to regain any serious confidence with the Church, let alone with public opinion, he will have to abolish the Fourth Department. Otherwise, people may continue to take him for the Godfather.

CELEBRATING THE TRUTH

There are three main reasons why the Government is right to change its mind and to celebrate the 40th anniversary of VE Day. First, millions of British citizens fought at home and abroad to make this victory possible. They expect their government to celebrate the culmination of a just and popular war which brought to Western Europe the peace we still enjoy. If it was right to commemorate D-Day how can it be wrong to commemorate VE Day?

Baroness Young had originally suggested that there might be a problem with interpreting the role of our then ally, the Soviet Union. But even Pravda called the British government's first decision "strange". The Soviet Union is already gearing up for its own massive celebration of the defeat of Nazi Germany, with its own peculiar interpretation of that defeat. The Soviet press is claiming that this was entirely the work of the Red Army: the part of the Western Allies is barely mentioned. Marshall Stalin is making a comeback for the occasion. A straight line is being drawn from Hitler's mad aggression to the so-called "revanchism" of our present ally, the Federal Republic of Germany.

This is the second reason why

the British government is right to organize its own commemoration: not to match distortion with distortion, one-sided propaganda with other-sided propaganda, nationalism against nationalism, but to set the record straight. In Britain, unlike the Soviet Union, the past cannot simply be rewritten by order of the State, to suit the political needs of the moment. What we need is an act of remembrance which pays fair tribute to the Soviet Army's immense contribution to defeating Hitler in the years 1941-45, but which also recalls the years of the Nazi-Soviet non-aggression pact that preceded it - years when we stood alone - and the years of bitter disappointment which succeeded it, as Stalin ruthlessly imposed Soviet rule on the European lands he had "liberated". One does not need to be a diplomat to understand that this might offend some Russian sensibilities. But to use the occasion solely to recall what united us with the Soviet Union then, perhaps as a symbolic boost to the arms talks, and not what divides us now, would be worse than not to celebrate at all. Only the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth will do justice to this anniversary.

Finally, we have been urged to

consider West German sensibilities. But no less an authority than Manfred Rommel, son of the field marshal and an outstanding Christian Democratic mayor of Stuttgart, has said that this is a misunderstanding. In fact, the West Germans have quite as much reason as any of us to celebrate VE Day - for it brought them peace and liberation from Nazi tyranny. The unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany was the pre-condition for Germany's western rebirth as the stable, liberal and prosperous democracy which it is today. The forthcoming anniversary is therefore the perfect occasion for us to refute the absurd Soviet charges of West German revanchism, of a continuity from Hitler's militarism to the Kohl government's democratic commitment to NATO or from Nazi designs on Eastern Europe to Bonn's Ostpolitik.

VE-Day is central to our understanding of Britain's role in Europe and of Europe's view of Britain. It is an occasion for celebrating, together with our West German allies, what has been achieved in Western Europe since the defeat of Nazism. And it is an occasion for reflecting, with a glance at Eastern Europe, how much has still to be achieved.

A BREAKTHROUGH IN CYPRUS

Great hopes are vested in today's meeting between President Kyprianou and Mr Rauf Denktaş, which seems to offer, for almost the first time since 1974, the hope of real progress towards a solution of the Cyprus conflict.

According to both UN and Turkish Cypriot sources there is already a draft agreement for the two leaders to sign, though admittedly it is in the nature of a framework agreement, leaving much detail to be settled by working parties and/or in further meetings before actual implementation could begin. The Greek Cypriots, who have been put on the defensive by some unexpected Turkish concessions, say they do not know of any one document that is ready for signature. According to them there are actually four documents on the table: a draft agreement first put forward by the UN Secretary-General back in September and only slightly modified since; two "non-papers" (the UN's latest semantic *travaux*) submitted to the Secretary-General by the two sides and containing the substantive concessions; and a paper drawn up at a lower-level meeting in Geneva last week which simply tabulates the points already agreed in earlier phases of the intercommunal talks.

The Secretary-General has publicly given credit to the Turkish Cypriot side for "its favourable reaction to all elements of my presentation", whereas last spring he was blaming Mr Denktaş for sabotaging the previous UN initiative. The Turks have suddenly become the "good guys" of the diplomatic scene, which means that the pressure is now heavily on the Greek side to abandon their remaining sticking points. The Greek Cypriots know this, and are well aware that it will be

difficult for them to leave New York without signing an agreement of some sort. They are also aware that if the present process comes unstuck they are unlikely to be offered better terms later.

President Kyprianou has apparently succeeded in convincing even those Greek Cypriot parties which opposed him until now that an acceptable agreement is within reach, thereby securing a national consensus on his negotiating strategy. No less important, he has won the support of the Papanastasiou government in Athens, which was previously contemptuous of the intercommunal negotiation process and sought instead to internationalize the conflict. He has also sought the support of Western governments, particularly the British, for his plea that the agreement should not include a "Turkish guarantee" which would amount in practice to a charter for future Turkish invasions, but must if it is to have any point at all provide for the withdrawal of Turkish troops at an early stage.

The first request is unrealistic. As the Greek Cypriots themselves admit, geography provides a de facto guarantee to the Turkish Cypriots inasmuch as it is practically impossible to stop Turkey intervening if at any time she considers either her own strategic interests or the security of the Turkish Cypriot community to be in peril. On balance it is probably better to have this possibility codified in a treaty than to leave it to the discretion of Turkey's political and military leaders.

The most the Greek Cypriots can reasonably hope for is to balance it with guarantees from other powers against unwarranted Turkish intervention - though after Britain's lamentable performance in 1974 it may well be asked which other power

could be relied upon to take effective action if it was called for.

But in insisting on the withdrawal of Turkish troops Mr Kyprianou surely has a valid point. The Turks have always maintained their troops were there only until a solution to the intercommunal conflict could be found. The history of the last quarter-century hardly suggests that the presence on the island of either Greek or Turkish troops, whether official or unofficial, can be regarded as a contribution to constitutional order.

By contrast the role of UNFICYP, the UN force, has been acknowledged as valuable by both sides. Many Turkish Cypriots by now heartily wish the Turkish army would go home. Perhaps those who still feel they would be unsafe without it would accept a strengthened UNFICYP with a significant contingent from other Muslim countries.

The object of the talks must be to achieve a solution enabling Turkish Cypriots to feel secure, as citizens of the new federal republic, without having to rely on the presence of a large occupying force which makes it impossible for their Greek compatriots to feel secure; and a solution allowing sufficient freedom of movement between the two zones for there to be a hope that the two communities will with time grow together rather than continue to grow apart as they have been doing in the last thirty years. If such a solution is on offer the Greek Cypriots should jump at it however unjust the share of power and of territory may seem to them. The unity of the island, on which they are not only the majority but economically the more advanced and the more dynamic community, must surely be their overriding long-term interest.

Changing guard at the Palace

From Mr Robert Elliott
Sir, Presumably Household guards' officers will continue to wear their inoffensive and highly decorative uniforms on ceremonial guard duties. Why then should our guardsmen be armed with such an obviously offensive and hirsute weapon as the new rifle, the SA 80 (report, January 11), when they share those same duties?

We British do not need to be cowed with a high-powered machine gun to behave ourselves when we are out sightseeing, a smile and a friendly push from an unarmed bobby is usually enough. A friendly clout with a truncheon is acceptable when we know we are being deliberately hostile.

In the same way a rifle used as a barrier - much like a quarterstaff or a halberd - or, at worst, as a threatening spear, is the kind of remonstrance we recognize we deserve when, by accident or design, we step over the guards' picket lines. For this purpose the new rifle is absurd and grossly over-mening; even the SLR was a mistake. The short Lee-Enfield Mark IV was ideal and strangely reassuring, and infinitely better as an adjunct to formal drill. It was also full of honour.

While our servicemen must have the very best weapons when we go to war, and be superbly expert in its use, when we are at peace then I believe we would all prefer them to look smart, steady, and friendly and in no way like some totalitarian zombies who are ready to mow us down in swaths should we so much as crouch a snook at the Leader.

Yours faithfully,
R. ELLIOTT,
11 Cragfields Avenue,
Rushley,
Rushley,
January 12.

From Mr Martin Spiro
Sir, Why should the guards' ceremonial uniform and drill be accompanied by the latest rifle used on active service? Would it not be more logical to return to muzzling, loading muskets for these traditional exercises?

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN SPIRO,
The Rectory,
Toot Hill,
near Ongar,
Essex,
January 13.

Teaching the young

From Mr Gerald F. Spston
Sir, Digby Anderson's article (January 9) appears to suggest that the primary school teacher's unique task is to teach children to read and write, the quicker the better.

What of the child's social and emotional development? What is society expected to do with children capable of passing A-level examinations years before they are mature enough to cope with university or even sixth form life?

At a school at which a primary school child acquires knowledge of all kinds, not just academic, is determined as much by its natural growth, physical and mental, as by the efficiency of its teachers.

By ignoring these fundamental aspects of the question, Digby Anderson casts doubts not so much on the cost-effectiveness of the country's teachers as on that of the Social Affairs Unit.

Yours faithfully,
GERALD F. SPSTON,
21 Mackenzie Road,
Cambridge,
January 9.

Growth of cancer

From Mr M. Ellis
Sir, Your Science Editor reported (January 7) on the suppression of the cancer link with smoking in the 1950s. In fact the link was established in 1860s, according to a volume I have published then, called *Dictionary of Daily Wants*.

Under the entry for "Tobacco smoking" the effect it has upon the health is clearly discussed: The occurrence of cancer in those who habitually smoke from a short time... are notorious; further there is a tendency to disease of the throat and air passages when this indulgence is followed to any great extent.

The habit-forming aspect is also covered in the extensive entry. One wonders how the whole subject lay dormant for so long and why!

Yours faithfully,
M. ELLIS,
41 Crespin Road, NW4,
January 8.

Infant burial

From Mr Michael Pawson and the Reverend Roger Thacker
Sir, A letter which you published (January 8) from Michael Hull, of Bristol Maternity Hospital, is damagingly inaccurate. Burial, or for that matter, cremation, is not denied to babies of less than 28 weeks' gestation.

Pay restraint and unemployment

From Mr Tom Ellis
Sir, From the end of the war until 1979 all governments regarded full employment, stable prices and a satisfactory balance of payments as their principal economic objectives. A crucially important factor in achieving this triad was pay restraint. "We must not pay ourselves more than we can afford" became the text of a thousand sermons preached from the pulpits of all the political parties.

So we witnessed a succession of incomes policies, ranging from simple exhortation through contracts with the unions to statutory pay freezes. However, none was established satisfactorily over a sufficiently lengthy period for its effectiveness to be judged and most acted simply as dams, later to collapse under the flood.

In 1979, therefore, the incoming government decided on a new tack and abandoned one of the earlier objectives. An important feature of monetarist policy, Sir, according to no less an authority than your own leader of a couple of years ago, is "a natural level of unemployment".

No one knows what the natural level should be, whether one million, two million, three million or more, but it has to be high enough

to enforce pay restraint on a headstrong work-force.

Pay rises, unfortunately, continue to exceed those of our more efficient competitors, even those with much lower unemployment rates, so one presumes that the "natural level of unemployment" has, in our case, not yet been reached. Yet the Chancellor has already told us that he plans "a Budget for jobs" and you in your leader today (January 10) support him.

A number of questions pose themselves for the perplexed citizen. For example, does the Chancellor believe that unemployment is at last at or above its "natural level" or is it simply that he is concerned more with disquiet on the back benches?

If the former, can we assume that the level of unemployment will remain at the three million to 3,250,000 mark indefinitely? If the latter, what does the Government now propose to do about pay restraint?

Yours faithfully,
TOM ELLIS (President, SDP Council for Wales),
Whitehurst House,
Whitehurst,
Chirk,
January 10.

Opposition politics

From Mr Arthur Palmer
Sir, As a member of the Labour Party since my early youth and an MP for 31 years, I feel that the drift of Mr James Curran's views in your issue of December 27, although expressed cautiously, would keep the party in perpetual opposition in Parliament and it is there and not on the picket lines that power resides.

I remember marching in demonstrations in the Munich time before the last war and shouting "Chamberlain must go", but he didn't go until he was defeated by a parliamentary vote.

Likewise, Mr Heath was not cast from office by the miners' strike of 1974, but because he called a premature general election and was returned with an insufficient number of MPs to form a government.

The Labour Party cannot take itself back 80 years and start again with generalised socialist propaganda as if past Labour governments had given nothing worth while to the political development and social experience of the British people. Such a stance objectively gives support to Mrs Thatcher's myth that everything post-war before she

arrived was pre-history and wasted time.

I would have thought that Clement Attlee led the 1945-51 Labour governments, in home policy, at least, from a position to the left rather than to the right of centre and his achievements endured successfully until the present counter-revolution. But Mr Attlee didn't automatically take the trade union side in every industrial dispute, however justified the action from the individual union point of view. Indeed, I think I am right in saying he brought in troops to maintain supplies in two dock strikes.

Mr Neil Kinnock is wise enough to know that those who seek government office by parliamentary means must in opposition show that they have an instinct for future responsibilities. After all, nobody would pretend that in a free society there will be a cessation of industrial conflict once a Labour Prime Minister moves from 10 Downing Street. There was not in the past and there won't be in the future.

Yours &c,
ARTHUR PALMER,
14 Lavington Court,
77 Putney Hill, SW15,
January 3.

Human rights in Malta

From Mr James Hill, MP for Southampton Test (Conservative)
Sir, In his final speech as Malta's Prime Minister Mr Dom Mintoff expressed a commendable respect for his parliamentary colleagues.

According to your report (December 24) he assured members of the Opposition "whatever he might have said in the heat of the moment, he had not intended to hurt individuals". This apparent respect for the feelings of others betrays some of the recent actions of the Government, although the country is a signatory of the European Convention on Human Rights.

Articles 8 and 9 of this Convention provide for the protection of one's private life, home and correspondence and for freedom of religion. They lay an obligation on the State to protect these rights. However, this autumn the Maltese Archbishop's residence was ransacked during a demonstration by dock workers in favour of the Government.

The police did not intervene until the damage had been done and so far, nothing has been done to prosecute those responsible. Nor is

any redress available through individual petition to the European Commission on Human Rights, since Malta has not recognised the right to individual petition under article 25 of the Convention.

In order to contain potential violence by extending the rule of law, it is time to encourage the Maltese Government to accept the optional clauses of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The Council of Europe is the proper place for such encouragement since it is the institution responsible for establishing and administering the Convention. However, Malta has not been represented in the parliamentary Assembly for over a year now, and its Minister of Foreign Affairs has rather contemptuously boycotted the bi-annual meetings at ministerial level.

With the heartening news that Mr Mintoff has resigned, his successor must ensure that his government sends a delegation of all political parties to the next plenary session of the Council of Europe, to be held on January 28 in Strasbourg.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES HILL,
House of Commons,
January 2.

Abolition of GLC

From the Director of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry
Sir, We welcome the underlying reasoning behind your leader, "The City of London" (December 27).

Whatever the eventual outcome of the Bill to abolish the Greater London Council, London will remain an administrative and financial entity for the provision of a wide range of local services.

Whilst we may lose the GLC, a large part of the cost of the Metropolitan Police, London Regional Transport, Thames Water Authority, the Inner London Education Authority, a joint board for fire and emergency services, and quite possibly a waste-disposal authority, if not others, will be met directly by London ratepayers through rates, precepts and parliamentary levies.

The LCCI's concern about funding these bodies is twofold. Firstly, at present there is no provision to co-ordinate the policy and expenditure priorities of these autonomous and single-purpose authorities, each empowered to raise revenue for its own purposes, at any time and at irregularly in times of scarce public resources.

Secondly, there is no opportunity for London ratepayers to assess a "bottom line" - the aggregate in any one year of all the rates, precepts and levies charged on a county-wide basis by the providers of services - before they pay the total bill.

Before the abolition Bill becomes law it is highly desirable that a mechanism should be introduced to enable a London-wide assessment of the ratepayers' ability to pay and fix priorities between the competing claims in a given financial year.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY PLATT, Director,
London Chamber of Commerce and Industry,
69 Cannon Street, EC4,
January 3.

Ups, downs and so on

From Mr R. G. Manning
Sir, Mr Howard's ups and downs (January 9) reflect our society's increasing cynicism. "Up to you" implies an opportunity to earn honour. "Down to you" implies an imposition.

Yours faithfully,
R. G. MANNING,
17 Guessens Road,
Welwyn Garden City,
Hertfordshire,
January 9.

From Mr Harold Cottam
Sir, It was common parlance, I believe, in club and other circles to ask the barman to note down the cost to one's bar account when inviting friends and acquaintances to have a drink. The implication of the phrase "down to" therefore is that of putting one's money where one's mouth is. In this context, the use of the word "down" does not infer any more or less greediness than does the use of the word "up".

Please chalk this explanation up and down to me.

Yours faithfully,
HAROLD COTTAM,
Kenney's Farm,
Mages Green,
Arboret,
Reading, Berkshire,
January 11.

From Mr G. W. Crowther
Sir, I hope that Mr Philip Howard has noted in today's *Times* (January 9) that we are instructed to fill out the Valentine coupon. Once upon a day we would have been invited to fill it in.

Yours faithfully,
G. W. CROWTHER,
Beaufield House,
Higherford,
Lancashire,
January 9.

ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 17 1920

Local and state prohibition of liquor in the United States had been in operation since the early nineteenth century. National prohibition was adopted by the eighteenth amendment to the Constitution; it was repealed by the twenty-first amendment on December 5 1933.

EVE OF PROHIBITION

[From our correspondence]

NEW YORK, JAN. 16

By the grant of 24 hours' grace the legal effect of the prohibition amendment to the Constitution will be felt at midnight tonight, but for all intents and purposes the blow has already fallen. With the arrival of complete "dryness" the chief occupation of the public appears to be scanning the lists of things that it may or may not do under the Constitutional Amendment. These are given at great length by most of the newspapers, and the cumulative effect of the "Don'ts" causes the average reader to look up with a kind of stricken glance at his neighbour in the subway or the suburban train.

A great many people thought that the lists of "Don'ts" under war-time prohibition covered all things. Now, in addition citizens are informed that it is forbidden to carry a flask containing liquor, to make a present of liquor, or manufacture it in one's own home. The comment on these "prohibitions" is many of the "twelve" believe them, is plentiful. Speaking of the rule concerning the natural fermentation of cider and fruit juices, the *New York Times* remarks:

"Of course, such a rule makes a criminal of nearly everybody. No harmless bottle of grape juice or cider can rest in the pantry. Leg without coming under well-grounded suspicion. The banishment of home-made wine is undergoing transformation into something like orange juice. One question, however, is to be asked. The prohibition Commission has not yet from applying his doctrine to logical completeness. He has not yet prohibited fermentation in the home."

The *New York World* begins its leading article with the solemn declaration:

"After 12 o'clock tonight, the Government of the United States, as established by a Constitution maintained for nearly 121 years, will cease to exist. Upon this new government, which will come into existence tonight and under which we shall be living tomorrow there have been conferred the most despicable powers to be found in any civilized community, unless we are to regard Russia as civilized."

Recalling the list of habits and customs, even instincts, which are now controlled by police powers, the *World* goes on:

"The citizen who carries a glass of brandy to an unlicensed dinner-party is liable to arrest and imprisonment, for he will be a criminal."

So, adds the *World*, will be the housewife who permits a glass of fruit juice to ferment till it contains more than half of 1 per cent of alcohol, or will the citizen who ventures to remove a bottle of beer from one habitation to another without written permission. This new Government the paper denounces as a Government created by office-holders for office-holders, about which the people of the United States had nothing to say, and which has never known the Referendum or the ballot-box. "Nothing like this had been known in the history of human freedom." One of the first problems to present itself in connection with the final disappearance of the liquor traffic is the making up of the loss of revenue from licenses and similar sources. In New York City alone this amounts to over \$2,000,000. For New York State the figure is nearly \$5,000,000.

Calorie count

From Miss Elspeth Ogilvy Wedderburn

Your correspondent, in *The Times* of January 5, quotes, from a 1909 edition of Mrs Beeton, a recipe for a "Soup for Benevolent Purposes". My nineteenth-century edition gives a similar recipe, remarking that it was used by the editors in the winter of 1858, for distribution amongst a dozen families of the village near which she lived.

She made eight or nine gallons per week at an average cost of 3p per quart. The ingredients included: An Ox Cheek, any trimmings of beef which may be bought very cheaply (say 4lbs) a few bones, any pot liquor the ladies may furnish, 4 peck of onions, 6 leeks, a large bunch of herbs, 1½ celer (the outer pieces of celer tops do very well), 1½ carrots, 1½ turnips, 1½ cress brown sugar, 1½t beer, 4lbs common rice or pearl barley, 1½ salt, 10c salt pepper, a few raspings, 10 gals of water. Boil for 4 hours.

Mrs Kirk, editor of *Three Favourites*, gives a recipe for "Count Rumford's Soup" on which, she says, he fed some 1,200 beggars at Munich, while they were taught to work, at an expense of less than 1d per day, fuel and service included. Yours faithfully,
E. OGILVY WEDDERBURN,
37 Gillespie Crescent,
Edinburgh.

Late bird

From the Rev Stephen J. Burgess

Sir, Unlike Mrs Jane Stockwell (January 11), when 3.30 has passed I carefully avoid even a casual look at the Portfolio dividend and my card. Just in case!

Do I qualify as the first ostrich of spring? Yours faithfully,
S. J. BURGESS, Chaplain,
Farrington School,
Chislehurst, Kent.

Order of merit?

From Mr Austin Fawcett

Sir, Has Sir Keith noted, I wonder, your persistence in publishing "University Appointments" secondarily to and separate from "La crème de la crème" (pages 24 and 25)? Yours faithfully,
AUSTIN FAWCETT,
71 Tom Lane,
Sheffield, South Yorkshire,
January 8.



COURT CIRCULAR

KENSINGTON PALACE
January 16: The Prince and Princess of Wales this morning visited Horton Hospital, Epsom, Surrey. Their Royal Highnesses, attended by Major Jack Stenhouse, Mrs George West, and Mr Victor Chapman, travelled in an aircraft of The Queen's Flight.

The Prince of Wales, President, the International Council of United World Colleges, this afternoon chaired a meeting of the United World Colleges and Appropriate Technology in India at Kensington Palace.

His Royal Highness, President, the Royal College of Music Centenary Appeal, accompanied by Her Royal Highness, this evening attended the premiere of the film *Amadeus*, in aid of the Appeal and the National Theatre Foundation, at the ABC 1 & 2, Shaftesbury Avenue, WC2.

Mr David Roycroft, Mrs George West, and Mr Victor Chapman were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit Strangeways Research Laboratory, Cambridge, and Goodfield Metals and NAPP Pharmaceuticals at the Cambridge Science Park on February 6.

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit Concorde Village College, near Cambridge, on February 7.

The Princess of Wales will attend the National Jazz Centre's gala concert at the London Palladium on February 10.

Birthdays today

Mr Muhammad Ali, 43; Mr Keith Chegwin, 28; Mr Michael Clapham, 73; Mr Douglas Cleverdon, 52; Mr Martin Cooper, 75; Mr Justice Mervyn Davies, 67; Mr Keith Joseph, 67; Mr Geoffrey Patte, 69; Professor W. B. Robertson, 62; Miss Moira Shearer, 59; Professor David Smithers, 77; Miss Gillian Weir, 44; Lord Wheatley, 77; Mr C. L. Wakot, 59.

Prince and Princess to visit Australia

The Prince and Princess of Wales are to visit the state of Victoria, Australia, during October and November to mark its 150th anniversary.

The Prince and Princess will arrive in Melbourne on October 23 and visit areas in Victoria until November 5. They will also visit Canberra on November 6 and 7.

Buckingham Palace said their children were unlikely to accompany them.

Architect's honour

The Royal Institute of British Architects announces that its president, Mr Michael Manser, has been made an honorary fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada. He has been invited to attend the Institute's annual assembly at Halifax, Nova Scotia, in May.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P. Beltrami and Miss L. Wellwood
The engagement is announced between Pablo, son of Señor Alfredo Beltrami and Señora Magdalena Barbo of Montevideo, Uruguay, and Lucinda, daughter of Dr and Mrs John Wellwood of Liss, Hampshire.

Mr S. M. Bladen and Miss R. A. D. Hall
The engagement is announced between Simon, younger son of the late Mr J. D. Bladen and of Mrs G. M. Bladen, of Beverley, Yorkshire, and Rebecca, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs P. D. Hall, of Woughton-on-the-Green, of Buckinghamshire.

Mr J. P. N. Dessain and Miss L. C. Crabtree
The engagement is announced between Colonel and Mrs H. I. Dessain, of Knebworth, Yorkshire, and Imogen, daughter of Major-General Crabtree, of Crabtree, of Sharncliffe, Yorkshire.

Mr D. N. Diamond and Miss S. M. Goldstein
The engagement is announced between Neil, only son of Mr and Mrs C. Diamond, of Manchester, and Susan, only daughter of Mr and Mrs E. M. Goldstein, of Leeds.

Mr A. M. Dickie and Miss L. A. Aitken
The engagement is announced between Andrew, son of Dr and Mrs R. E. Dickie, of Lifford, Pembrokeshire, and Lydia, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs E. Aitken, of Four Oaks, Sutton Coldfield.

Mr R. C. B. Ford and Miss F. A. Burton
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs R. B. Ford, of Richmond, Surrey, and Frances Ann, daughter of Dr and Mrs J. D. K. Burton, also of Richmond.

Mr A. C. Keate and Miss N. S. Piggott
The engagement is announced between Angus Christopher, younger son of Captain and Mrs Harry Keate, of Kilmoran House, Kilmoran, Argyleshire, and Nicola Susan, daughter of Captain Piggott, of Little Bookham, Surrey, and Mrs Peter Liddell, of 7 Pratt Walk, London, SE11.

Mr J. S. Scanlon and Miss S. J. Lashbridge
The engagement is announced between Michael, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Michael Scanlon, of County Kerry, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. S. Lashbridge, of Luxembourg and Buckland, Oxfordshire.

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Latest appointments

Mr M. O. Saville, QC, to be a judge of the Queen's Bench Division of the High Court.

Mr D. J. R. Wilson to be a circuit judge on the Midland and Oxford Circuit.

Mr D. R. Parnett to be joint County Court and District Registrar for the districts of the Bolton, Bury, Oldham and Stockport County Courts.

Mr Philip Oakley, finance officer and company secretary of the Universities Central Council on Admissions, to be the council's general secretary and chief executive from August 1 in succession to Mr Ronald Kay.

College named
The new college resulting from the merger of the Royal Holloway and Bedford Colleges, of London University, will be known as the Royal Holloway and Bedford New College.

St Edmund's College, Ware
Lent Term begins today with F. J. Gunn as captain of school. Term ends on March 27. The long exam weekend will be from Saturday, February 16 to Tuesday, February 19. Performances of the school play *The Happiest Days of Your Life* will be on Friday, March 1, and Sunday, March 3 at 7.30 pm. Performances of the junior school operetta, *Partners*, will be on Saturday, March 2, and Sunday, March 3 at 7.30 pm. The annual half-marathon will be on Sunday, March 17 at 10.30 am.

St John's School, Leatherhead
Lent Term began on Monday, January 14. The school captain is P. M. C. Drury. The Bishop of Dorchester will conduct a confirmation service on Saturday, February 2, at 10.30 am. The Bruvells Trophies will be held on Saturday, February 9. Term ends on Wednesday, March 27.

St Margaret's School, Bushey
Term has begun with 418 pupils in the school. Louise Boswell is head girl and Melanie Jones is deputy head girl. The confirmation service will be on March 23, and term ends on March 27.

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Work of Edwardian architect on show

An exhibition on the work of the Edwardian architect, Sir Reginald Blomfield, opens today at the Heinz Gallery, Portman Square, London (t 01-493 6100). Architecture Correspondent writes.

Closely associated originally with the arts and crafts movement, Blomfield gradually developed a style of restrained classicism, which he thought was the true English tradition.

By the end of his career, which started in the 1880s and closed in the 1930s, architecture and the movement had branched him a reactionary, but he maintained his belief in the artist-architect.

College principal for Dimpleby lecture
Dame Mary Warnock, Mistress of Girton College, Cambridge, will give the Dimpleby Lecture, to be broadcast on BBC 1 on Tuesday, March 19.

The title of her lecture will be: "Teacher, teach thyself - a new professionalism for our schools".

She will argue that a new approach is needed among teachers to govern their training, their relations with pupils, parents and with one another.

Latest wills
Admiral Sir Robin Leonard Francis Darnford-Slater, of Liphook, Hampshire, who commanded the Anglo-French naval task force during the Suez operations in 1956, left £2,142 net.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):
Adamson, Mrs Olive, of Thorpe Adamson, Leicestershire, £348,695.
Clark, Mr Norman Ernest, of Gillingham, Hampshire, £218,604.
Clark, Mrs Deborah Florence, of Horley, Surrey, £486,596.
Kelley, Mr Gerald Darby, of Brighthelm, company director, £486,994.

Robson, Mr Donald, of Caterham, bank director, £260,818.
Turner, Mr Denis Arthur, of Brighthelm, farmer, £239,728.
MacFarlane, Mr John Scott, of Eastbourne, East Sussex, retired Lloyds underwriter, £388,234.

Astronomy awards
The Royal Astronomical Society has announced the following awards for 1985:

Gold Medal Professor T. Oke, of Cornell University, for his research in planetary nebulae and interstellar dust, and for his contributions to the understanding of the physical processes in the interstellar medium.

Plumage Medal Professor T. Oke, of Cornell University, for his research in planetary nebulae and interstellar dust, and for his contributions to the understanding of the physical processes in the interstellar medium.

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Arbitration agreement need not be signed

Excomm Ltd v Bamco Ltd
Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the High Court, and Justice Slade and Lord Justice Lloyd, the House of Lords has held that an arbitration agreement need not be signed in order to satisfy the definition of such an agreement in section 32 of the Arbitration Act 1950 as "a written agreement to submit differences to arbitration."

That was stated when the Court of Appeal in reserved judgments allowed an appeal by plaintiffs, Excomm Ltd, from the order of Mr Justice Mocatta made on December 4, 1978, on the ex parte application of the plaintiffs granting them leave to enforce an arbitration award as a judgment against the defendant, Mr Ahmed Abdul-Qader Bamco Ltd, under section 26 of the 1950 Act.

Mr Stewart Boyd, QC, for Mr Richard Aikens for the plaintiff, Mr Ahmed Abdul-Qader Bamco Ltd, and Mr Christopher C. Russell for the defendant.

Leave to appeal to the House of Lords was refused.

LORD JUSTICE LLOYD said that the dispute arose out of a contract for the sale of Australian wool to the plaintiffs in January 1976. The plaintiff sellers were incorporated in Bermuda with their headquarters in Switzerland. The defendant was in business in Saudi Arabia. The contract was negotiated through London brokers and the Saudi Marketing Establishment in Jeddah.

According to the plaintiffs the contract was contained or evidenced by a broker's note of January 27, 1976, with terms "as per Gafa Contract No 14" which provided for all disputes under the contract to be referred to arbitration in London in accordance with specific rules.

A copy of the broker's note was sent to the marketing establishment for transmission to and signing by the defendant. The defendant never signed and said that he did not see the note until the end of May 1978.

The plaintiffs said they were owed a balance of \$218,459 by way of demurrage. They claimed arbitration and appointed their arbitrator under the Gafa rules.

On June 16, 1978 Gafa informed the defendant that they had appointed a Mr Morgan-Jones to act as his arbitrator and the defendant was asked for instructions. The arbitration went ahead.

After disagreement between the two arbitrators, the umpire appointed by them awarded the plaintiffs \$217,924.

Following the plaintiffs' ex parte application to Mr Justice Mocatta it was ordered on December 4, 1978, that the plaintiffs had leave to enforce the award in the same manner as a judgment or order pursuant to section 26 of the Arbitration Act 1950.

The judge's order was sent to or left at Gafa's London office by letter of December 13, 1978 and a copy was sent to the defendant at his Jeddah address.

The defendant applied in September 1983 to set aside the judgment. Mr Justice Webster held that there were no grounds for setting aside the judgment.

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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Funds flood may swamp rise in mortgage rates

The building societies continue to ponder the problems of when and by how much to raise their interest rates. The larger societies met yesterday evening and the full Building Societies Association Council will discuss the situation tomorrow. The result may not turn out to be as bleak for mortgage borrowers as at first seemed likely when bank base rates hit 12 per cent on Monday.

The upward pressures on building society rates are undoubtedly strong. Not least is the likely challenge from National Savings which must hang on to money invested in its maturing 19th issue certificate if it is to meet the year's £3 billion funding target in April.

Yet building societies must also keep a weather eye on mortgage demand. Their striking success in attracting deposits over the last few weeks has left them flush with money which they need to lend out. At present the balance is delicate. Mortgage demand is just matching the supply of funds; but even the Woolwich, which charges a mere 11.75 per cent on mortgages of any size, is having to advertise its loans in some branches.

So as not to be left with a large pool of funds they cannot lend, the societies will have to keep the mortgage rate rise to the minimum. This is likely to mean a basic rate of little more than 13 per cent. It is also likely to mean that differentials on higher mortgages will be shaved.

In the meantime, there seems to be little consensus among the large societies about a rate change. The Halifax and the Leeds are clearly keen to move up soon. Others, particularly the Abbey National, are equally keen not to move at present. In the event the building society industry could again be thrown into the kind of confusion that plagued it in the summer when societies seemed to be at each others' throats, bewildering their customers with a wide divergence of rates.

Progress on the gilts front

There will be more than eight primary market makers in the new gilt-edged market and fewer than 100, the situation is still very fluid. This bulletin from the bank was delivered yesterday by Eddie George, the Bank of England director largely responsible for master-minding the reconstruction of the market in time for the 21st century.

He told a City University seminar that the bank had no settled view on the optimum number of players, apart from the eight to 100 parameter and is prepared to look at all corners. If the press of applicants is too heavy, the Bank may set some applications aside but only temporarily; frustrated applicants could come back the following year.

It cannot be an easy job, altering 200-year-old methods of providing Government finance without running into a mega-disaster. Mr George acknowledged the efficiency of the old market, but regretted that a privileged few finished up within the market's high walls of obligations and rewards. More open markets are the ultimate aim, but as Mr George pointed out, change delayed for too long makes a small evolutionary step a leap in the dark.

His point that the old structure probably militated against any change at all and that markets will be freer in future to develop in comparatively unknown directions is worth bearing in mind. Some of his proposals have been dismissed as heeding the letter but hardly the spirit of change, in particular the exaggerated importance attached to discount houses in the new set-up.

Yesterday Mr George provided more examples of how the best of the old will be tacked onto the new. The package of privileges for gilt market-makers, which include tax breaks, close relationships with the Bank and access to last resort funding, sound similar to the present range of jobbers' perks. The Bank wants to see gilt trading on the Stock Exchange floor, as now, as well as telephone trading. It has no plans to relax its supervisory role.

His comments on the discount houses however, contain the flavour of real alteration. Gilt market-makers can evolve into discount houses. The Bank eventually will be willing to establish a discount house relationship with any newcomer with a good record. Considering the intimacy of the ties between the Bank and the houses, that adds up to a big commitment to change.

Meanwhile, back in the big, bad world of the old gilt-edged market, the Government Broker may have regretted that the pace of evolutionary change has not already swallowed him up. The new top, £800 million of Exchequer 10½ per cent 2005, was expected to open at a quarter premium or 140½ in its partly-paid form. Some dealers even suggested the stock would be taken out immediately.

Not a bit of it. The Government Broker sold stock at one-eighth premium, and then retreated, whereupon the market slipped. Most of the trading apparently was tax-loss switching. Long-dated stocks finished more or less unchanged on the day, while shorts improved by some 7½ point at best. Nothing to write home about.

The Hanson formula for success

Hanson Trust's annual general meeting at the Barbican Centre in London yesterday had the air of a prayer meeting for members of an extreme evangelical cult. More than 500 faithful made the pilgrimage through arctic conditions to praise (and just one to criticize) Lord Hanson, the charismatic 62-year-old chairman of the bricks-and-batteries-to-stores and engineering combine. The days when it is good to be a high-profile, high-market flyer are back.

Who can blame them? Hanson has devised a formula for success unequalled by others in the FT 30 index, except BTR and Sir Owen Green, another conglomerate with bold objectives and, the market senses, P&O under the new direction of Sir Jeffrey Sterling. An investment of £1,000 in Hanson when it went public 21 years ago would now be worth nearly £500,000, assuming rights worth £13,660 were taken up.

In the last year alone, Hanson shares have outperformed the market by nearly 50 per cent and in the last month, much to the horror of Powell Duffryn, Hanson's latest takeover target, they have done 11 per cent better.

The relentless upward movement in the Hanson price has ensured that terms of four-for-three for Powell Duffryn, which stood little chance of succeeding, when launched in the middle of December, now look almost irresistible. PD shareholders should however, wait to see Powell's updated profit forecast, promised for the first week of February and not accept Hanson's terms at tomorrow's first closing day.

Hanson is now Britain's eleventh largest company with a market capitalization of nearly £2.2 billion. It is a highly motivated, professionally managed and carefully run group. Its timing on the takeover front, as Powell Duffryn is painfully aware is superb.

Employment up by 49,000 as earnings rise 6.6%

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

There was a 49,000 rise in the number of people in work in the third quarter of 1984, the Department of Employment said yesterday. However, the growth in the employed labour force which started in 1983, has slowed down, official statisticians say.

Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Employment, said yesterday that the pound's low level should be "very encouraging" for jobs, offering "a huge opportunity for exporters".

Unemployment has continued to rise during a period of increasing employment because the size of the available workforce is growing.

The figures were released alongside new pay figures. These showed that average earnings rose by 6.6 per cent in the year to November, compared with 8.2 per cent in October but, because of distortions, the underlying rate is calculated to have been 7.5 per cent in both months.

Average earnings in November were depressed by 0.75 per cent, by industrial

disputes, mainly the coal strike. The strike's effect on the figures is now diminishing as a result of the return to work and the fact the November represented the first anniversary of the overtime ban, so strike effects drop out of the year-on-year comparisons.

Other distortions arose from delayed pay settlements in local authorities and the coal industry, and back pay for civil servants and health service workers.

The 49,000 rise in the employed labour force in the third quarter was made up of a 35,000 rise in employment in the services sector, a 5,000 increase in construction and agricultural employment and a

20,000 jump in the number of self-employed and member of the armed forces. This was offset by decline of 5,000 in manufacturing employment and 6,000 in the energy and water supply industries.

Later figures for employment in manufacturing, show a rise of 6,000 in October and no change in November.

The 49,000 rise in people in work in the third quarter of last year compared with 17,000 in the second quarter and 48,000 in the first.

It was well below the high rates of increase recorded in the second half of 1983, when the employed labour force rose by 66,000 in the third quarter and 12,000 in the fourth.

In the year to the third quarter of 1984, the employed labour force grew by 226,000 including a 533,000 rise in employment in service industries and a 33,000 drop in manufacturing employment.

The evidence is that many companies still prefer to offer their existing workers overtime, rather than take on new staff.

Quiet day for sterling

The pound had one of its quietest days for weeks yesterday, in what was described as "routine trading" ahead of the Group of Five meeting of finance ministers and central bankers in Washington.

It closed at \$1.1195 in London, 15 points down on the day, after holding steady at just above \$1.12 for most of the day. The sterling index was unchanged at 71.3, having remained at that level in most of the hourly calculations during the day.

The money markets took comfort from the pound's

steadiness, the three-month interbank rate closing just above the 12 per cent level base rates, at 12½ - 12 per cent. However, dealers reported some nervousness about today's figures for the public sector borrowing requirement.

The FT Index rose 19.5 points to 981.3 to make a two-day gain of 32 points. This more than wiped out the panic fall in share prices that occurred on Monday.

Share prices were marked up across a wide front as institutions buying returned to a market found short of stock.

Letter 'behind Maxwell sale'

By Cliff Feltham

Mr Robert Maxwell, the Mirror group publisher, may have decided to sell his large stake in the Daily Express group Fleet Holdings to avoid disclosing more information about his Liechtenstein-based Pergamon Holding Foundation which ultimately controlled the shares.

Lord Matthews, the chairman of Fleet, commenting yesterday on the sale of the 15.76 per cent shareholding to United News, said that he was "disappointed" Mr Maxwell only told him about the sale of the shares after the deal was done. He said the transaction came soon after a "routine" letter sent by Fleet to substantial shareholders seeking information about the ultimate beneficial ownership of various shares.

"When Mr Maxwell phoned me he mentioned the letter as being one of the reasons he sold. I was slightly surprised. Maybe it was just an excuse. But it's



Lord Matthews (left) did Mr Maxwell dispose rather than disclose?

amazing how he has been getting out of companies so quickly. Maybe our letter triggered off this sale - he certainly seemed to move quickly in our case."

During Mr Maxwell's takeover bid for Waddington the company threatened to use British law to disenfranchise his 23 per cent stake unless true ownership of the Pergamon Holding Foundation, through which his widespread business

is directed, was disclosed. Mr Maxwell's entire stake was later sold in the market.

Lord Matthews said he would have been happy to have arranged to place Mr Maxwell's shares if he had asked but added "whether we would have got the same price for them I don't know."

Mr Alan Ford, company secretary for Fleet Holdings, said that as a "matter of routine" it had sent out a letter under section 74 of the 1981 Companies Act. "That is a provision under which a company is entitled to seek information from any person who may have any interest in providing certain information about whether they are the beneficial owners of the shares" he added.

Commenting on the large stake in Fleet now held by United News, which owns major newspapers and provincial newspapers, Lord Matthews said he had "no strong views" about the holding.

Cruise lines in talks on co-operation

By Our City Staff

The board of the Cunard shipping group Trafalgar House will next month consider a report outlining possible areas of co-operation with the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company in its cruise liner and container ship operations.

Sir Nigel Brookes, chairman of Trafalgar House, told shareholders at the annual meeting yesterday there were "certain to be areas where economics can be made". And he described relations between the two groups - Trafalgar had made a takeover bid for P&O which it later lapsed - as being "at an all-time high".

The Trafalgar chairman said later that a joint committee, and individual groups, had been examining ways of making savings but no decisions had yet been made.

During the meeting, Sir Nigel said Trafalgar was still looking at ways of re-engaging its flagship vessel, the Queen Elizabeth 2, and had also explored the prospect of obtaining a government subsidy in view of the strategic importance of keeping the ship in service.

If the vessel were fitted with new engines she would halve the fuel bill and double her life from 10 to 20 years.

Norway reduces oil price by \$1.45

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Norway has set its official North Sea oil price for January on a scale between \$27 and \$27.50, a fall of at least \$1.45 over the previous official price set in October.

The new price structure takes the price of Norwegian Brent crude oil to its lowest level since the price of \$27.25 in October and as crude oil prices in the United States are being cut and stocks of petroleum products are rising.

The new Norwegian prices will be at the higher end of the scale for Ekofisk crudes with Brent and Statfjord crude slightly cheaper.

Britain has yet to set its official North Sea oil price through the British National Oil Corporation and is unlikely to do so until after this month's emergency meeting of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) due to start in Geneva on January 28.

Opec had been hoping to maintain a \$29 market price with bad weather forcing industrialized nations to buy in new supplies as stocks ran down.

However, this strategy appears to have failed and there is

new considerable pressure building up within Opec for an official price cut.

However, in the United States the big oil companies have announced cuts in the prices they are prepared to pay per barrel for oil refineries. Exxon has cut the price it pays for West Texas Intermediate crude by \$1 to \$28, bringing into line with Chevron and Texaco. Mobil has cut its buying price to \$27.50 and Conoco to \$26.76.

Prices on the US spot market have dropped to \$25.90 and on the future market the price is now \$25.91, a drop of more than 20 cents in one week.

United States buyers are putting pressure on Mexico, a non-Opec member but one which follows Opec policies, to cut prices by \$2 a barrel below the Opec market price.

The downward price pressure in the United States is likely to continue in the wake of new statistics issued yesterday by the American Petroleum Institute which shows that last week petrol stocks rose by 0.2 million barrels to 241.6 million barrels while crude oil stocks rose by 5.9 million barrels to 341.7 million barrels.

R P Martin takeover talks fail

By Philip Robinson

Takeover talks at R. P. Martin, the money brokers, have collapsed. In a statement to the Stock Exchange yesterday the firm said discussions which were taking place solely with a group involving the management have been terminated.

The shares, 310p six weeks ago, before talks were announced, plunged 62p to 323p. At one point during the talks the price touched 410p.

Mr David McWilliam, managing director for 11 months, declined to comment on whether the talks had faltered on price or that Security Pacific, the American west coast bank and future owners of Hoare Govett, the stockbrokers, was involved.

However, the City is convinced that a firm "for sale" sign now hangs above Martin. There have been a number of management changes since it forged links with the West German money broking group Bierbaum and Co.

£1bn London docks plan

By Judith Huntley, Commercial Property Correspondent

The London Docklands Development Corporation, the body responsible for regenerating 5,000 acres of the capital's redundant docks area, has revealed its plans for the £1 billion development of the 700-acre Royal Docks.

The corporation is expecting the private sector to come up with three-quarters of that sum in commercial, leisure and recreational schemes which will transform the derelict docks into what Mr Christopher Benson, its chairman, describes as "a thriving water city".

The crucial factor in the development is the building of a

short landing and take-off airport. Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Secretary of State for the Environment, has yet to give final approval to the airport plan which would be developed by John Mowlem.

Until the uncertainty over its future is resolved, developers and financial institutions are unlikely to commit themselves to investing large sums of money in the Royal Docks.

However, the Corporation says that some of the leading pension funds and insurance companies have already shown interest in the Royal Docks.

Golden Thames, page 17

Clausen confident of Africa fund launch

By Michael Prest, Financial Correspondent

The World Bank is confident that its proposed special assistance fund for sub-Saharan Africa will be launched in February despite the reluctance of some large donors to make funds directly available. Mr A. W. "Tom" Clausen, president of the bank, said yesterday.

But last night - after a 45-minute meeting between Mr Clausen and Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Timothy Raison, the aid minister - the British Government was still saying that it had not yet reached a decision on the form Britain's contribution might take.

It was underlined in Whitehall, however, that Britain definitely supports the fund in principle. But officials continued to stress that budgetary constraints militated against

increasing the share of multilateral assistance in Britain's aid programme.

For its part, the World Bank recognizes that the \$1 billion it hoped to raise for the fund is now virtually unobtainable. The US, Germany and possibly Japan are unlikely to contribute directly. Coordination of resources made available in other ways will play a much bigger part in the bank's strategy.

Nevertheless, Mr Clausen said yesterday that since the beginning of December the bank had received commitments for about \$600 million and that \$800-900 million was obtainable. He added: "£800-900 million will not be an absolute catastrophe. It will be the hinge on which we can hang the door. What will matter will be the policy of the donors."

Fears on dual residence

By Ian Griffiths

The Inland Revenue's plans to increase the tax yield by introducing legislation to restrict corporation tax relief granted to some companies have been criticised by the Chartered Association of Certified Accountants.

The association argues that the proposals, which would affect companies with dual residence, predominantly those incorporated in the US but also resident in the UK for tax purposes, could hit overseas investment in Britain which is potentially damaging at a time of high unemployment.

The proposed legislation could also be detrimental to Britain's financial institutions and contribute to a reduction in invisible earnings. The association is also concerned that some UK companies could suffer a reduction in earnings in relation to the level of their investment in the US.

Rather than proceed with what it sees as being piecemeal legislation the association has called for a comprehensive review of the taxation of foreign income which should be carried out by an independent committee.

Abbey Life may float shares

Abbey Life, the insurance company wholly owned by ITT of the US, may float a minority of its shares on the stock market. ITT has asked Warburg, the merchant bank, and Ernst and Whinney, the accountants, to carry out a feasibility study.

Abbey Life was built up by Mr Mark Weinberg in the 1960s. He left in 1970 to start Hambro Life, which has just been bought by BAT Industries.

The money will be used to help finance further development at Wyth Farm over the next three years and new projects in Italy, Trinidad, the United States and the North Sea.

Mr Michael Hephner, chairman and managing director of Abbey, said a share flotation would raise the company's profile.

Premier to raise £16m

Premier Consolidated Oilfields, which recently fought off a £100 million takeover bid from one of its fellow members in the consortium which owns Britain's largest offshore oilfield at Wyth Farm in Dorset, has announced that it is to raise £16.5 million from shareholders through an issue of 44,725,559 ordinary shares.

The money will be used to help finance further development at Wyth Farm over the next three years and new projects in Italy, Trinidad, the United States and the North Sea.

The company is also negotiating a production-sharing contract in the Far East. Part of the proceeds of the issue may be used to buy into existing gas or oil production in the United States.

In the autumn Premier thwarted a takeover bid by Capel and Leonard, which also has an interest in Wyth Farm and in offshore oilfields in Hampshire.

The new shares are being offered at 36p, a 7p discount on yesterday's price. Capel and Leonard held 14.9 per cent of the company.

MARKET SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

FT All Ind	381.3 (+19.5)
FT-A All Share	N/A
FT Govt Securities	80.17 (+0.20)
FT-SE 100	1254.1 (+20.9)
Bargains	26.152
Dainstream USM	105.05 (+0.74)
New York	
Dow Jones	1233.86 (+2.87)
Nikkei Dow	11,933.02 (+108.11)
Hong Kong	1358.81 (+27.81)
Amsterdam	191.4 (+0.4)
Sydney AO	734.3 (+0.1)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	1149.5 (+12.2)
Brussels	
General	129.14 (-22.12)
Paris: CAC	189.8 (-0.1)
Zurich	
SKA General	333.90 (+0.50)

GOLD

London fixing	am \$302.45pm \$302.20
close	\$302.50-\$303.00
(270-275.50)	
New York	
Comex \$303.50	

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISER	
Breville Europe	14 +2
Blairdon Smith "A"	7½ +1
Blairdon Smith "B"	15 +2
Mainnet Higgs	38 +5
Resource Technology	42 +5
FACE	385 +42
Bell Bros	57 +6
Ass Brit Eng	15 +2
VW Thermo	123 +12
Kode Int	202 +18
Lowes Hurd-Spink	283 +25
Carpet Int	44 +4
F.H. Lloyd	36 +3
Systo	158 +13
British Oil & Mining	25 +2
Wolverhampton Ld	25 +2
Metal Sciences	13 +1
Evode Group	119 +9
Gamer Booth	200 +15
Waring & Gillow	194 +10
Bay Corp	94 +4
Goverment	58 +5
Bio-Isolates	41 +3

FALLS

W. G. Allen	25 -11
Zynal Dynamics	25 -5
R. P. Martin	340 -45

CURRENCIES

London:	
\$: \$1.1195 (-0.0015)	
DM: 3.5710 (+0.0070)	
Sfr: 2.9975 (-0.0165)	
FF: 10.3540 (+0.0155)	
Yen: 285.40 (-0.10)	
Index: 71.3 (unchanged)	
New York:	
\$: \$1.1195	
DM: 3.5710	
Sfr: 2.9975 (-0.0165)	
FF: 10.3540 (+0.0155)	
Yen: 285.40 (-0.10)	
Index: 71.3 (unchanged)	

INTEREST RATES

London:	
Bank Base: 12%	
3-month interbank: 12½-12%	
3-month eligible bills: 11½-11%	
buying rate	
US:	
Prime Rate: 10.75%	
Federal Funds: 9%	
3-month Treasury Bills: 7.75-7.72%	
Long bond: 10½-10½%	

Sidlaw Group

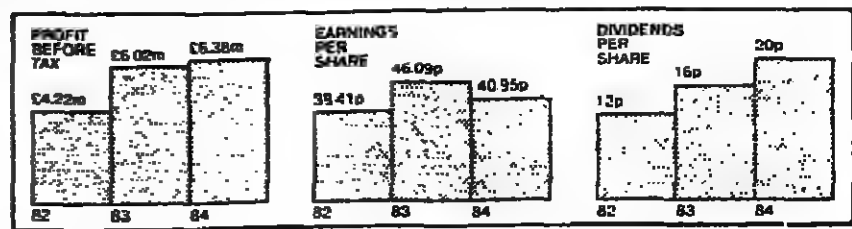
Oil Services and Textiles



"Steady and continuing growth"

Robert C. Smith, Chairman

- Record trading profits from established businesses
 - Oil Services +12% to £5.2M.
 - Textiles +36% to £1.6M.
- Strong financial position. Borrowings only 7% of total funds employed. 25% dividend increase and scrip issue.
- New investments for future growth in international oil services and microcomputers.



Oil Services
ASCO growth continues in Aberdeen and Peterhead.

Textiles
Successful year supplying carpet industry at home and overseas.

Associated Company

Shean Dhu hotels investment sold with substantial gain. New acquisition of 50% of Drexel Oilfield Services (H.K.) Ltd.

For a copy of the Annual Report write to the Secretary, Sidlaw Group plc, Nethergate Centre, Dundee DD1 4BR.

Concluding a Times investigation into who is behind the million-pound property deals in London

River Thames fringed with investors' gold

WHO OWNS LONDON?

The face of London's river is changing as derelict docks and warehouses make way for offices and homes. The view from the Tower of London to Blackfriars Bridge on the north side will be transformed. Judith Huntley reports on how foreign investors are spearheading developments.

The Thames, flowing through the heart of London, was once a thriving commercial thoroughfare. But its fortunes now lie in the development potential along its banks rather than in serving the shipping which used to crowd the Port of London.

The river's banks, from the docks in the east to Vauxhall in the west, are undergoing a transformation brought about by dramatic changes in ownership. Ship as Arab interests and other overseas investors lead the way in converting riverside sites from trade to commerce.

The value of the large wharf and warehouse sites lining the Thames lies in their proximity to the City, to the West End, to Westminster and to the main commuter termini. The changing patterns of London's business have left redundant docks and derelict warehouses as sad reminders of times past. Many are being redeveloped to provide offices, houses, workshops and tourist havens needed by today's society.

The Kuwaiti royal family is responsible for the largest development along the riverside since the Great Fire in 1666. A huge site stretching from London Bridge to Tower Bridge, south of the river, formerly Hay's Wharf, is being developed with 2 million sq ft of offices, a private hospital, new shopping housing and industry.

The first phase, costing £120 million, has begun. The old warehouses that flanked the road from London Bridge are gradually disappearing, to be replaced by 800,000 sq ft of

offices and the hospital. The buildings lining the river are designed by different architects, to give variety along the 24-acre site.

Next to London Bridge station, No 1 London Bridge will have office towers of nine and 12 storeys and a five-storey glass atrium. Chamberlain's Wharf is the site for the 118-bed private hospital, which is being built behind the restored facade.

The old Hay's Dock building is to be transformed into the Hays Galleria, with 304,000 sq ft of offices, a public gallery and museum, wine bar, coffee houses and shopping under a conservatory-style roof.

When the scheme is complete it will be possible to walk under cover all the way from London Bridge to Tower Bridge. New homes will be built, and there will be landscaping and open space along the way.

The Government's decision to allow the St Martin's development has started a bitter dispute. The local council, Southwark, opposed the scheme and was supported by local pressure groups which wanted public housing and industry rather than offices.

The half-mile-long site comes under the control, however, of the London Docklands Development Corporation, which is responsible for regenerating 5,000 acres of redundant dockland.

Pressures from conservation groups defeated plans for a 500-foot office tower nicknamed the Green Giant.

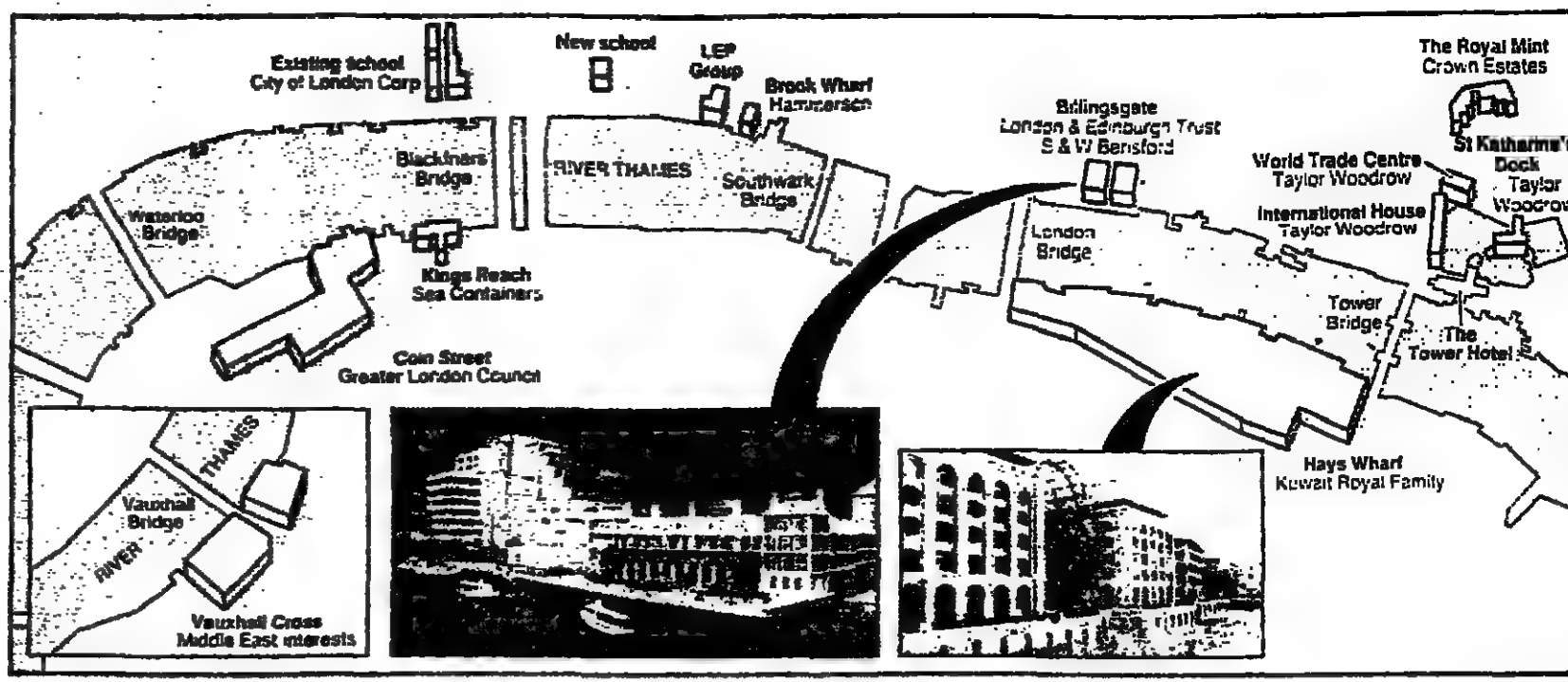
Next came Mr Ronald Lyon, of the Arunbridge property group, backed by Middle Eastern investors in a plan for 1.15 million square feet of offices. Mr Michael Heseltine, then Environment Secretary, turned on the Green Giant and persuaded Arunbridge to hold an architectural competition, promising in return to cut the usual public inquiry procedure.

The winning design featured a zig-zag office blocks facing the river, with the flats projecting from them. But the effort proved academic: Arunbridge went into voluntary liquidation in 1983, and the site remains in limbo.

A five-year struggle to resolve the development of Coin Street close to Waterloo Bridge, ended last year in victory for community groups.

Greycoat Commercial Estates abandoned plans for an ambitious project between Blackfriars and Waterloo bridges for one million sq ft of offices, shopping and residential development on the 13-acre site, and sold its interest in the land to the Greater London Council for £2.7 million.

The GLC has given consent for the Association of Waterloo Groups, a pressure group, to develop the site with 400 homes, 26,000 sq ft of studio and workshop space, a park and viewing platform on top of that familiar Thames landmark, the Oxo tower. It took five years of expensive protracted planning and much political battling to reach the point where some use is being made of the derelict site.



Another scheme with a varied career is the King's Reach development, next to Blackfriars Bridge on the south bank. It is now owned by Sea Containers, the Bermuda-based shipping group which bought Sealink. The project started life as offices, housing and a riverside hotel, but unfortunately for the original developer the bottom dropped out of the London hotel market temporarily and grants towards construction were withdrawn.

The half-completed shell remained an eyesore for years until Sea Containers bought and began converting it to offices. It will provide 230,000 sq ft of offices, with 70,000 sq ft let to British Information Systems.

The north side of the river has not suffered the same decay and neglect, because commercial development at least has always been more attractive to investors north of the river. The City of London is the magnet which draws foreign banks and financial organizations as well as British. It can provide the office space they need.

The most striking changes to the river frontage has begun with the development of Billingsgate Market and the adjoining site. Stepped glass office towers will sit next to the former fish market, which is being converted to commercial use.

The traditional wharves and docks that lined the north bank in the City have outlived their usefulness and redevelopment has taken place, with office buildings flanking the bridges. Three Quays and Sugar Quay

by the Tower are now the names of office blocks.

The City of London Corporation, which owns about a third of the City's real estate, is in a powerful position to control development on its waterfront, and the ancient city livery companies, also large landowners, can exert similar influence on redevelopment.

The scheme will have a total of 245,000 sq ft of offices, to be built in phases next to the former market and fronting the river. A new riverside walkway will form part of the development and office towers and surroundings will be landscaped to provide greenery.

Next door to the Tower of London, a startling transformation has taken place. St Katharine's Dock has been developed by Taylor Woodrow into a tourist attraction. The warehouses surrounding the dock have been converted into shops, offices and homes overlooking the nineteenth-century Thames barges, with their distinctive red sails, moored there with the latest glass-fibre cruises.

The dock was the property of the Port of London Authority, which sold its interest to Taylor Woodrow, but it still operates the dock leading to the river.

A modern hotel, The Tower, rises above the dock, offering unrivalled views of the river and the Tower of London itself. The World Trade Centre and International House provide office space for a plethora of British and overseas companies engaged in broking, insurance and shipping. And the London Commodity Exchange recently signed a deal to make its home at St Katharine's Dock.

Close to St Katharine's Dock is the site of the former Royal Mint, where Britain's coinage was struck for many years. The Crown Commissioners own the site, and there are proposals to develop about 300,000 sq ft of offices: listed buildings have to be retained, with any new office development paying for their renovation. So far no developer has come along, but there is talk of converting the Mint into an Islamic museum.

Nearer Blackfriars Bridge, two of the old wharves are scheduled for long-term redevelopment. Hammarston, one of Britain's largest property

companies, bought Brook Wharf a few years ago with the long-term aim of redeveloping this valuable riverside site with offices.

Nearby, LEP Group, the international freight forwarders, has planning permission for about 200,000 sq ft of offices surplus to requirements.

The City of London Corporation is building a new boys' school near the Mermade Theatre and the school's riverside building near Blackfriars Bridge and Fleet Street will eventually be redeveloped. The City had agreed to sell the school to a developer some time ago but the plan for a 400,000 sq ft office development which would have paid for the new school, never came to fruition. The office market went into the doldrums and the intended developer pulled out.

Will British investors find funds for redevelopment along some of the most valuable riverside sites in the world or will it be left to foreign money? Developers are keen to obtain a foothold on the north side, but the south bank is still regarded as the "wrong" side of the river. It could remain a neglected eyesore. With Government funds being cut back, there is little prospect of public-sector development.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

US influence helps index back to near peak

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Equities were in exhilarating form yesterday. Indications of strong American buying and hopes that the 2.5 percentage points interest rate increase will after all be enough to steady sterling sent the FT 30 shares surging, 19.2 points to 981.3 points - less than 2 points from its peak.

Many of the American favourites were sharply higher. The gains were accompanied by rumours that a top American institution had commenced a \$1 billion (£892 million) share buying programme which will be concentrated largely on British equities.

All index constituent stocks made progress. British Telecom surged 34p to a 125½p peak as keen transatlantic buying developed. Glaxo Group jumped on Zantac hopes in Japan and Imperial Group soared 12p to 206p as the feeling grew that it had clinched the deal to sell its troublesome Johnson & Johnson catering and hotel group.

After two traumatic days trading, the stock market has now climbed back to near the level ruffled before the sterling jitters created on occasions near panic selling.

The FT 30 share index has jumped 32 points in the past two trading days, almost recouping its loss.

According to Datastream calculations shares bounced back to £3,000 million yesterday, making a two day recovery worth £4,780 million.

BT's trans-Atlantic demand stemmed from British institutional and American invest-

ors who have been caught out by the sharp upsurge in the BT share price.

Shares sold in the US are now due for delivery and there were believed to be instances yesterday of investors short of BT shares being forced to borrow on the overnight market so they could deliver stock, often related to ADR's.

Glaxo got a boost from James Capel, the stockbroker. Analyst Mr Robin Gilbert, currently taking a look at Japan, believes Glaxo could sell as much as £50 million worth of Zantac there.

Greenall Whitley, the regional brewery which has been out of favour in the City since it took over part of the packaged tour operations of the failed Laker Airways, held presentations for analysts and held managers yesterday and appears to have impressed its audiences. The shares rose 2p to 179p and city profit forecasts for the current year are now stretching to about £33.5 million against £28.3 million.

this year, the first full year for the anti-ulcer drug.

That means the broking firm is likely to bring profit forecasts up into line with the rest of the Glaxo group. At the moment, Capel suggests profits of about £32.5 million for the year to June, but that figure might well rise to £340 million or more.

De Zoete & Bevan, long since fans of Glaxo, reckon 1985 profits will be more like £360

million, so Capel has still some catching up to do. But at least the firm is beginning to sound less like a disaster when Glaxo is mentioned.

Zantac is rapidly becoming a world-beating product. There is only one other high-selling anti-ulcer drug on the market, and Zantac looks to be catching up quickly. Tagamet, made by the US corporation Smith Kline, is the single largest selling drug in the world, but Capel, and other brokers, believe Zantac sales could overtake it by 1986.

At Glaxo, a spokesman for the group would only say: "Sales in Japan have had a very encouraging start, but it's only been available there for six weeks. We need to see the four month sales figures before we know just how well it's going."

W Greenwell, the stockbroker, added a note of caution to the City chat about Glaxo. The firm points out that a third anti-ulcer drug is about to hit the Japanese market. Gaster, made by Yamanouchi, goes on sale in early summer, and could knock those sales forecasts from Capel.

Nevertheless, Greenwell expects full year profits of about £335 million, with currency benefits helping Glaxo gain on the £236 million made last time. Imps, which enjoyed a late run, was rumoured to have sold Ho-Jo for about £360 million.

BOC Group was another index constituent in form following an encouraging investment presentation at House Govett, the stockbroker, and the yearly shareholders' meet-

ing. The shares jumped 14p to 287p.

Elsewhere Rowntree Mackintosh, the confectionary group which has attracted a multitude of takeover rumours in recent months, rose 2p to 370p.

Market talk suggested that Rowe and Purnan, the stockbroker, has attracted a block of 5 million shares through the market. The brokers refused to comment.

Mr Nicholas Nightingale, Rowntree's company secretary, said: "We are unable to comment on the reported

The Burton Group emerged yesterday as the surprise seller of a near 5 per cent stake in Etam. A single buyer pitched for the entire stake. Instead the 2.4 million shares were split between a few institutions at 142p each. Ward White is rumoured to have built a stake of just under 5 per cent, and Hepworths have been tipped as a possible Etam bidder. The women's fashion group's own shares closed last night unchanged at 145p.

transmission in our shares. We have received no information from the brokers. He added: "We do monitor our share register regularly for changes of ownership. At present we await answers to our routine inquiries about parcels of shares which came to our notice last month."

The shares are in separate parcels of 2 million and 2.5 million and together represent under 3 per cent of the total company equity. Swiss banks apparently acted as nominees in both cases.

Rumours of substantial Swiss buying of Rowntree's has often swirled in the market. Government stocks failed to join the market party. They were mixed with small gains in the shorts matched by falls in long dated stocks. The new tap started at 140½ in its slightly paid form. There was some disappointment that it did not sell immediately.

The FT-SE share index was 20.9 points higher at 1,254.1 points. Besides the American connection which had considerable impact on blue chips, the market drew strength from thoughts that, after the panic moves, to bolster sterling, interest rates may soon start to fall again. A modest Wall Street performance and the miners' drift back to work also helped equities.

Business was brisk on the London options market, with a total of 12,204 contracts traded. British Telecom again headed the list with 1,361 call options made, and 228 puts. Market

men continue in the belief that the BT share price has new heights to reach.

Courtsaid also stood out on the options lists, with 1,266 calls placed against just 63 puts. Bid rumours were amplified by the rush for call contracts.

Commercial Union stayed prominent, also subject to takeover hopes. In total, 1,197 CU contracts were traded, with 954 of them calls.

The new 10 per cent Exchequer 1989 gilt came in for options business. Call contracts outnumbered puts, but not by a big margin, emphasising the unspectacular start to dealings in the stock yesterday. There were 287 call contracts, against 151 puts.

Market opinion on the future direction of the FT-SE 100 share index stays gloomy. Put contracts were triple the number of calls, at 691 puts against 222 calls.

Kode International jumped 17p higher to 200p as buyers returned to the stock. The share price weakened in recent weeks, falling from the 225p level to around 160p.

Waring & Gillow continued to gain on talk of a bid for the home furnishings retailer. The shares rose 10p to 134p yesterday, making a two day gain of 15p.

Stylo was also back in the bid limelight, with a 13p rise to 158p. British Land is reckoned to be the next to try to break up the massive freehold assets of the shoe shops group.

The property company, led by chairman Sir John Ribbit, already has more than 5 per cent of Stylo ordinary stock but is thought to be negotiating with the Ziff family to get hold of the all-important management shares which carry 16 votes apiece.

Davy Corporation rose 7p to 94p in anticipation of today's half year results. Market expectations were for profits of around £6.5 million.

Davy is rated a "buy" by the charists currently. Some analysts reckon the share price could reach 120p, given the right results today.

Expamet International, the industrial holding company, found supporters in the stock market yesterday following the acquisition of APT Controls for £4.77 million. APT make wheel clamps and parking meters and offer Expamet a welcome move away from the building supplies business.

City men are also looking forward to profit figures for the current year and the Expamet share price jumped 7p to 99p as buyers chased a small amount of stock.

TEMPUS

Trusthouse disappoints

It was never going to be a bad year for Trusthouse Forte given the recent popularity of London as a holiday resort, the question was how good would it be? Yesterday's preliminary figures which revealed pre-tax profits of £105.2 million, up from £82.1 million, must be interpreted as very good but not spectacularly so.

Perhaps the problem for THF is the common assumption that its fortunes are inextricably linked to the dollar/sterling relationship. There is a feeling that every cent knocked off the pound's value will bring another thousand eager American tourists hammering on THF's doors looking for a bed for the night.

In fact, US visitors accounted for only 30 per cent of THF's customers in London and much less in the provinces. While the company has not been slow to take advantage of the situation it has not made the mistake of pandering too much to the North American markets in an attempt to gather in short term profits.

The most beneficial aspect of the pound's weakness has been THF's new found ability to force UN travel operators to accept much smaller discounts on advance block bookings. The consequence has been that achieved room rates, the amount collected compared to the full room rate, have shown a tremendous improvement. Further advances can be expected on this front in the present year.

Occupancy rates have also

improved and there has been an encouraging trend for the traditionally off-peak months to attract more customers. This offers an ideal opportunity for the group to produce some valuable profits growth.

The main thrust of THF's attention will continue to be in the UK where it is succeeding in increasing the number of domestic customers. However, the US must be an area where the group will be looking for better performance.

The US operations last year were pretty disappointing. Virtually all the profits increase was attributable to currency translation. However, there has been a concerted effort to improve management and productivity over there and some genuine improvements cannot be far away.

THF's balance sheet still remains strong although its asset backing was bolstered by a £140 million revaluation surplus on some of its properties during the year. Gearing remains fairly constant at around 53 per cent and could have reduced had it not been for an additional £35 million liability incurred on the translation of the US loan portfolio.

The market was a little disappointed that THF could do no more than produce figures in line with expectations and the share price dipped 3p to 156p where the yield is 5.3 per cent. The worries about the melting out of tourist demand in London have a degree of justification but THF is well insulated

thanks to its control of sales mix and the company's very long and prosperous history.

AGB Research

AGB Research's rapid profits growth over the last 10 years could not last for ever. The slowdown arrived with yesterday's interim figures: pre-tax profits of £3.5 million, by the company's own standards, represent a relatively meagre 16 per cent advance.

The reasons for the slowdown, however, offer encouragement for the future. Operations have been restructured resulting in above-the-line redundancy costs the benefits of which will not quickly become apparent.

More important, AGB has been spending heavily on 11 separate projects in the early stages of development. With little of the expenditure qualifying for capitalization, profits have been hit. AGB has also had to increase borrowings to finance the expansion which increases the interest bill. Gearing will remain below 50 per cent.

AGB's long-term prospects, therefore, remain encouraging and the short-term lull has to be accepted as part of the company's strategy. It is capable of making around £9.4 million in the full year. The shares up 5p yesterday at 237p are in the middle of their current trading range. As benefits emerge they are likely to move higher.

Tace plc

Benefits from high technology products continue

Preliminary Results for the year to 30th September, 1984

- * Turnover increased to £17,998,000 (1983 - £15,071,000).
- * Profit before tax increased to £2,603,000 (1983 - £1,217,000).
- * Final dividend 8.0p per share (1983 - 2.0p) giving a total for the year of 4.5p per share (1983 - 3.0p).
- * New products being well received in home and export markets.
- * Growth continuing strongly in current year.

Annual Report from The Secretary, Tace plc, Essex Hall, Essex Street, London WC2R 3JD



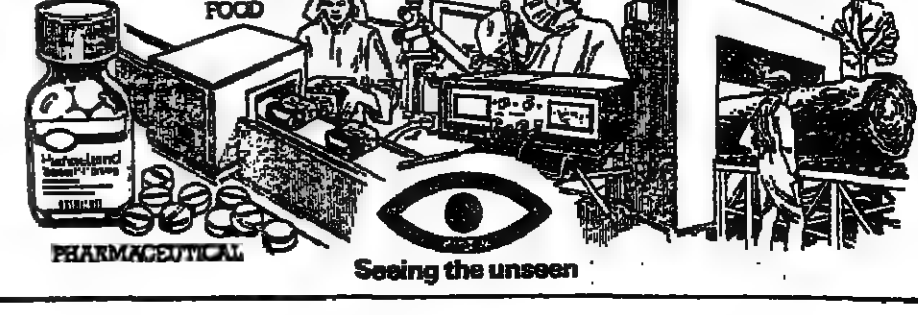
Goring Kerr plc

World leaders in metal detection

Preliminary Results for the year to 30th September, 1984

- * Turnover increased 53% to £2,294,000 (1983 - £1,504,000)
- * Profit before tax increased 55% to £2,374,000 (1983 - £1,534,000)
- * Earnings per share increased 61% to 20.72p (1983 - 12.83p)
- * Strong financial position
- * New products and markets boost profits in current year
- * Final dividend increased 69% to 5.50p per share (1983 - 3.25p)

Annual Report from The Secretary, Goring Kerr plc, Vale Road, Windsor, Berks SL4 5JZ



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General Appointments

Imperial Cancer Research Fund THE SECRETARY

Because of the impending retirement of the present Secretary, Mr. A.B.L. Clarke, CBE, the Council welcomes applications for consideration in connection with the appointment of his successor.

The Fund is a Charity of somewhat unusual scale and substance. With an income of about £25m, and employing approximately 1,000 people, it is the largest independently financed cancer research organisation in Europe, and depends totally on voluntary contributions.

The Secretary of the Fund is directly responsible to the Council for the administration of the Charity, and has seven department heads reporting to him, covering all aspects of the activity apart from the conduct of research and laboratory management.

Candidates will probably be between 45-55 years' old, and possess a highly successful track record in significant senior positions, where they will have shown a broad competence in commercial and financial management, gained in the public or the private sector.

Those who are interested in learning more about this opportunity should write in the first instance to:-

The Managing Director,
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Denise Ansell -
Age 22,
Joined Marlowe-
Sachs in June 1978
Earnings for year
ending April 1983 -
£21,000 and BMW.
Previous occupation
- Secretary.
Previous Salary
- £4,700.



Preston Whitfield -
Age 32,
Joined Marlowe-
Sachs in March 1982.
Earnings for year
ending April 1983 -
£22,000 and BMW.
Previous occupation
- Law.
Previous Salary
- £9,800.



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Salary is in the range £8500-£13000 depending on merit and experience, and for the right person career prospects with Seifel Geophysical are excellent.

CONTACT MR S LANCASTER, AREA GEOPHYSICIST.

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and Research Geophysicists

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CONTACT DR S MARCOFF.

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The National Economic Development Office is seeking an Industrial Director. The Office services the National Economic Development Council and its committees, and provides a creative link between management, unions and government in securing better economic and industrial performance.

The Industrial Director reports directly to the Director General. He heads the Industry Division, which supports some 45 tripartite sectoral committees - EDCs - and has a staff of about 170. Specific responsibilities include forward planning, management and review of the committees' operations, determining the Division's budgeting and staffing levels and identifying and developing work on issues to be taken forward by the National Economic Development Council itself. The Industrial Director maintains close contact with industry and the business world. He has an important representative role, which includes promoting action on NEDC recommendations and widening industrial discussion.

Qualifications include industrial/business experience at a senior level and a good understanding of the operations of government and of trade unions.

The current salary is £36,500 p.a. (adjustments are related to Civil Service Grade 2). The appointment will probably be for a fixed term of 4 or 5 years but this is subject to negotiation. There is a non-contributory pension scheme. The post is due to be filled from 1 July 1985.

Letters of application together with CV, other relevant information and names of referees should be sent to the Director General, National Economic Development Office, Millbank Tower, Millbank, London SW1P 4QX by 8 February 1985.



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Barbara Taine (Personnel Director),
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Vogue House, Hanover Square,
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NATIONAL TOURIST ORGANISATION OF MALTA

Vacancy for a CHIEF EXECUTIVE

We are looking for a Chief Executive with outstanding qualities and qualifications to take charge of the National Tourism Organisation of Malta.

The Chief Executive will be between 30 and 45 years of age, and will have recognised leadership qualities. The academic qualifications required are, a degree in Economics or Business Administration - a diploma in Tourism would be a definite asset. Experience in the tourism field, which the candidate will be required to demonstrate, must include a thorough knowledge of marketing and research, and the application of computers in these fields. We regard 6 years' experience in a senior management position, which will have included direct responsibility for staff, as being the minimum requirement for the Chief Executive we are looking for.

Salary will be negotiable and commensurate with experience. The successful candidate will be required to serve in Malta for a minimum of 2 years.

Applications should be addressed to: The Ministry of Tourism (C.E.), Harpers Lane, Floriana, Malta, and must reach the Ministry by 28th January 1985.

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

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Currently expanding their European operations division, our client, the market leader in Global Electronic Payment Systems is seeking an energetic young exec to fill this demanding post. This full liaison role covers all aspects of customer related operations in Europe and as such demands excellent interpersonal skills, systems awareness and the ability to work to tight deadlines. Applicants will have a strong awareness of the systems role within finance, probably drawn from within multi-national corporate treasury, international banking, on-line bureau services or payment systems itself. This operation is truly international and the ability to work as part of a multi-lingual team is imperative. Age 25/30. Applications in strict confidence to:

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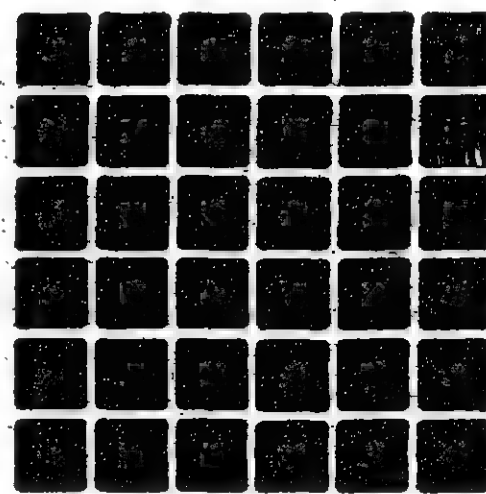
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35 NEW BROAD STREET, LONDON EC2M 1NH. TELEPHONE 01-588 3588 OR 01-588 3576. TELEX: 887374. FAX: 01-588 5218
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